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忍びの国
Ninjinobi no kuni
原作◆和田竜
「忍びの国」新潮社刊
作画◆坂ノ睦

目次

Ayakashi no Kuni

第伍話◆3
第六話◆41
第七話◆75
第八話◆109
第九話◆141
第十話◆165

第伍話

YOU WON'T DIE BEFORE YOU GET TO HOUJIRO.
GO WITH THIS SCAR AND TELL MOMOJI SANDAYUU...

TELL HIM THAT SHIMOYAMA HEIBE WILL RETURN TO IGA...
WITH AN ARMY FROM ISE!!

CHAPTER 5

A PERSON FROM IGA...
PROPOSES TO INVADE IGA...?!

MY LORD!!

Telling me to invade Iga is...!
...

WE WOULD BE GIVING THEM OUR HEADS ON A SILVER PLATTER!!
IF WE RAID IGA CARELESSLY AND GET CAUGHT IN THEIR TRAP,
THIS MAN COULD BE HERE BY ORDER OF THE TWELVE HOUSE COUNCIL.
WATCH YOUR TONGUE.
TSUGE!
DO YOU STILL SIDE WITH IGA?!
WILL YOU LET THIS GUY CONTINUE TO TALK IN SUCH MANNER?!
DO YOU TRUST ME?
MY LORD.

THEN PLEASE TRUST IN THIS MAN, SHIMOYAMA HEIBE, ALSO.
IF YOU TRUST IN ME, SANBUROU ZAEMON ..
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
I DO, BUT...
Actually, Saburouza always sees through the bastards who are after my life.
THAT IS...
5
WHY IS THIS GUY TRYING TO DRAG US INTO IGA?!
BUT... IF IT'S NOT A TRAP...
SAKIYOU NOSUKE-DONO?
DOES YOUR WARRIOR'S INTUITION NOT ALLOW YOU TO GRASP THE SITUATION,
IGA PEOPLE HAVE A PECULIAR SENSE OF SMELL.
DON'T YOU GET IT?

IT'S BECAUSE THIS GUY IS BETRAYING IGA!!
BUT...
FIRST OF ALL, IGA HAS AN ABNORMAL MILITARY FORCE.
EVEN IF THERE IS ONLY A ONE IN A THOUSAND CHANCE OF A TRAP...
H!
RAIDING AND DEFEATING IGA IS...
THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN DO ANYTHING TO IGA!!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN... WHAT MY FATHER COMMANDED?!
"IGA MUST NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY"
THAT WAS THE ORDER!!
DIDN'T YOU BASTARDS LISTEN AT ALL?!!

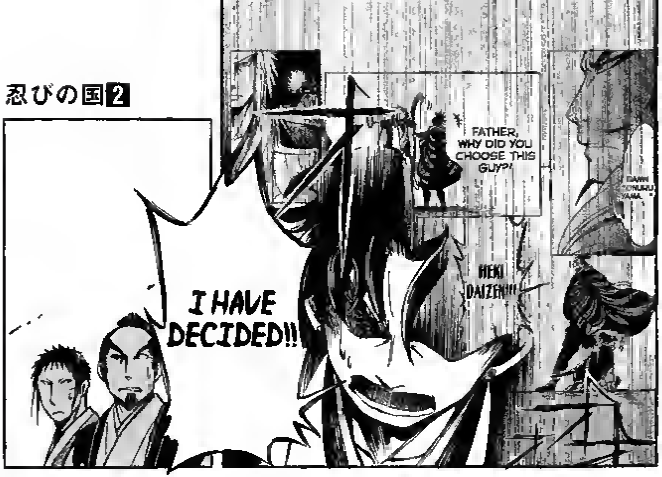
!?
HAHA HAHA.
MY LORD...

IS THAT HOW MY LORD INTERPRETED THOSE WORDS?
?!!
TSUGE!! ARE YOU USING JUTSU* ON OUR LORD?!
MY LORD!
PLEASE DON'T LISTEN TO THIS IGA GUY'S...
THIS IS BAD, THAT CURIOUS LOOK...!

*JUTSU: NINJA TECHNIQUES
WHAT HE MEANS HERE IS THAT HE MIGHT BE USING A MANIPULATE PEOPLE'S SENSES TECHNIQUE

STAY BACK, SAKYOUNO-SUKE!
PLEASE CONTINUE.
WELL THEN, LET ME TELL YOU.
HE WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU TO TAKE OUT IGA...
...WITH YOUR OWN STRENGH.
AND SINCE THERE IS A PROPOSAL FROM AN IGA SHINOBI...
...IT IS ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY THE INVASION OF IGA.

GODDAMMIT, YOU ALL MAKE ME LAUGH!!!
WE ARE OVERWHELMINGLY CROWDED AS SHINOBI,
EVEN IF WE EXTERMINATE THEM ALL, IT WON'T INCREASE OUR MILITARY FAME!
SO PARDON ME....
FOR NOT PARTICIPATING IN THIS WAR AGAINST THE WEAK!!
ARE YOU STILL SAYING THAT KIND OF SELFISH STUFF?
DAIZEN ...


FATHER, WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS GUY?!
HEKI DAIZEN!!!
I HAVE DECIDED!!

WE WILL INVADE IGA!!!

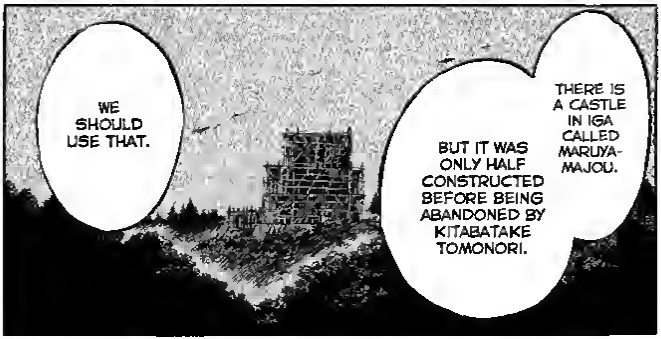
PLEASE RETHINK THIS CAREFULLY...
MY LORD, THAT IS...
TCH!!

!
HMPH
IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH MY DECISION, HOW ABOUT SAYING IT TO MY FATHER!!
NOT SATIS-FIED?!

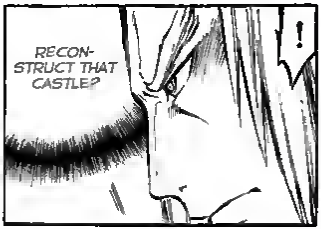
IN THAT CASE MY LORD...
ふぅ…

12

!?
AND HOW WILL WE ACCOMPLI-SE THAT?
WE MUST SET UP A BASE IN IGA FOR OUR SOLDIERS.


THERE IS A CASTLE IN IGA CALLED MARUYA-MAJOU.
BUT IT WAS ONLY HALF CONSTRUCTED BEFORE BEING ABANDONED BY KITABATAKE TOMONORI.
WE SHOULD USE THAT.

WOULD IGA SIMPLY LET US RECONSTRUCT A CASTLE WITHIN THEIR BORDERS...?
YES, AS LONG AS WE KNOW THEIR WEAK POINTS.


RECON-STRUCT THAT CASTLE?
!

13

ONCE, IN THE TIME OF LORD KITABAKE TOMONORI, I PERSONALLY ..
CONVEYED ANY PROPOSALS TO THE PEOPLE OF TWELVE HOUSE. COUNCIL.
THEREFORE, I WILL GO ONCE MORE AS OUR LORD'S MESSENGER.
LET ME GO, TOO.

?
YOU DIDN'T SHOW MUCH INTEREST BEFORE. WHAT CHANGED?
...YOU?
WELL, I DEVELOPED AN INTEREST.

14

WELL THEN, SANBUROU ZAEMON AND DAIZEN, MAKE THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS AND HEAD TO IGA.
... HMPH.
AND PUT THIS GUY IN JAIL!
!

BUT MY LORD, THAT IS...
NO!
IT'S FINE.
PLEASE DO AS THE LORD COMMANDS.
!

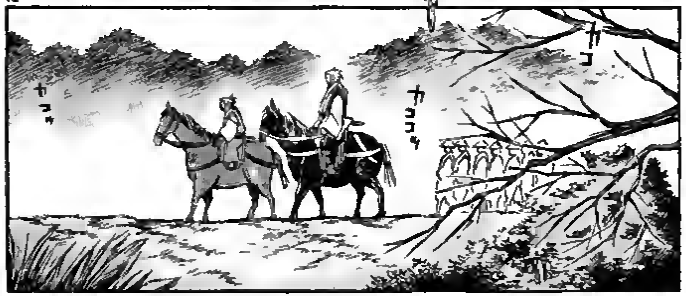
SHE IS...?
16
RIN ...!
THEN THAT WOMAN IS...
THAT'S RIN-SAMA.

SHE IS NOBUKATSU-SAMA'S WIFE,
AND THE DAUGHTER OF LORD KITABAKE TOMORI, WHO WAS KILLED A FEW DAYS AGO...!!
THANK YOU.
She married him and ended up being locked up in a castle...What is she holding in her hands? A keepsake...?
Even her father was killed.
17
I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR BELIEVING ME...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
ACTUALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO GREET YOU MORE HOSPITABLY...

WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN IGA!
OF COURSE.

Saburou zaemon departed for iga as the messenger of the preliminary announcement
two days later...

18


カコ
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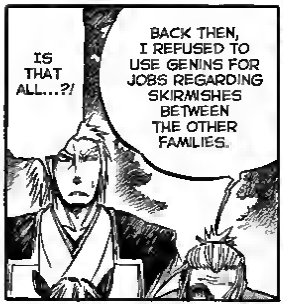
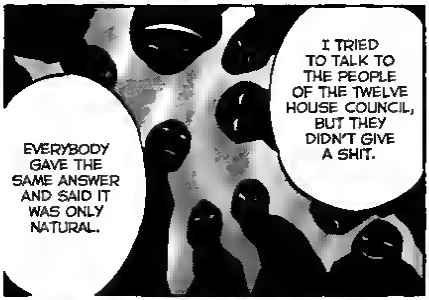
IT'S BECAUSE I WANT THE IGA INVASION TO HAPPEN MORE THAN ANYTHING.
YOU DID A SPLENDID JOB PERSUADING NOBUKATSU.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU BETRAYED THE KITABATAKE HOUSE JUST TO INVADE IGA?
WHY DO YOU WANT SUCH A THING EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE IGA BLOOD IN YOUR VEINS?!
WHAT?!
IT IS THE REASON I ENTERED THE ODA HOUSE.
...IT HAPPEN WHEN I WAS STILL LIVING IN IGA.
I WAS ON THE LIST OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TWELVE HOUSE COUNCIL.

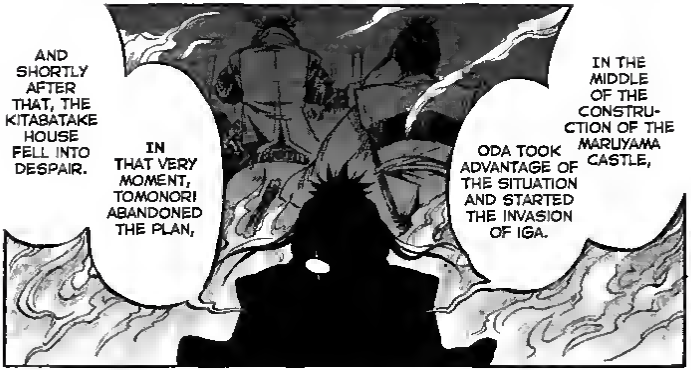

IS THAT ALL...?!
BACK THEN, I REFUSED TO USE GENINS FOR JOBS REGARDING SKIRMISHES BETWEEN THE OTHER FAMILIES.

I KILLED A CHILD ON THE ORDERS OF ONE OF THE TWELVE HOUSE COUNCIL.

THEY WERE JUST LIKE HOW SHIMOYAMA HEIBE DESCRIBED THEM...

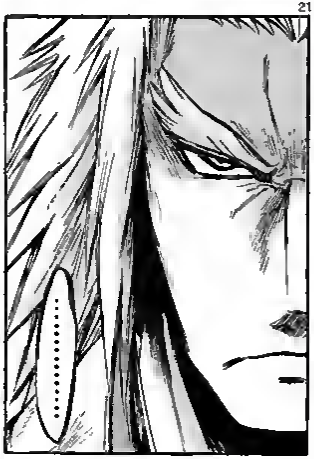

EVERYBODY GAVE THE SAME ANSWER AND SAID IT WAS ONLY NATURAL.
I TRIED TO TALK TO THE PEOPLE OF THE TWELVE HOUSE COUNCIL, BUT THEY DIDN'T GIVE A SHIT.

AFTER THAT, I STARTED TO WORK FOR THE KODZUKURI FAMILY OF THE KITABATAKE HOUSE, BUT...
HE AND I ARE THE SAME...!
THE PEOPLE OF IGA ARE NOT HUMAN.


AND SHORTLY AFTER THAT, THE KITABATAKE HOUSE FELL INTO DESPAIR.
IN THAT VERY MOMENT, TOMONORI ABANDONED THE PLAN,
ODA TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION AND STARTED THE INVASION OF IGA.
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MARUYAMA CASTLE,

AND THE REST, YOU KNOW.
THE KODZURI HOUSE HAD INTENDED TO BETRAY THE ODA HOUSE..
THAT IS WHY I TURNED MY BACK ON THEM.

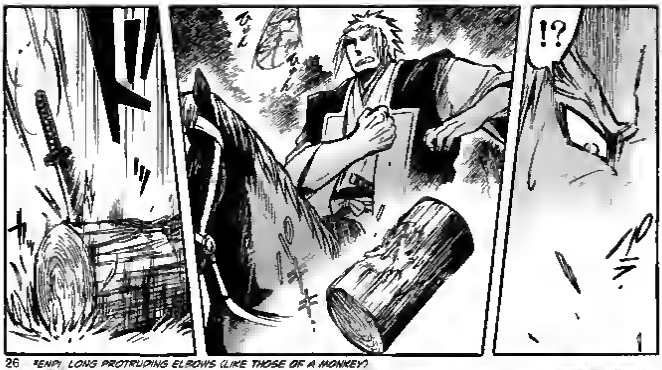
WAIT, TSUGE ...EH!!



STEP BACK!!

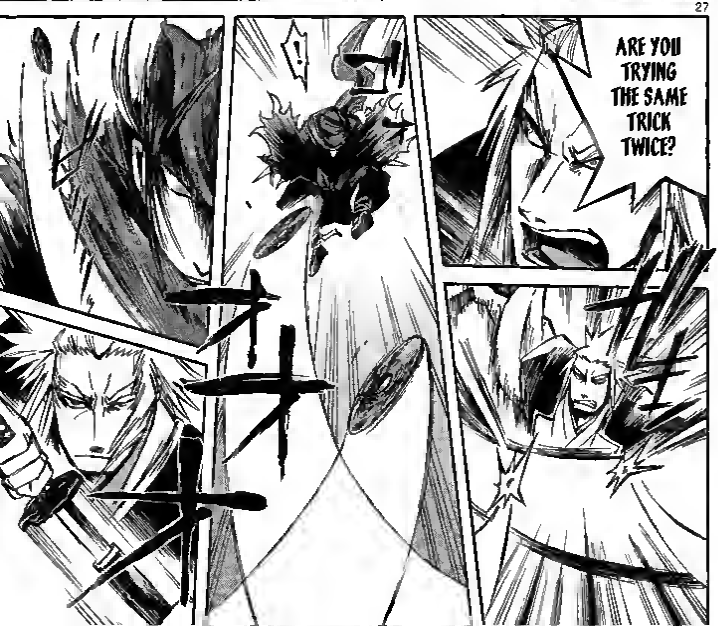
24

AS IF I'D LET YOU ESCAPE !!



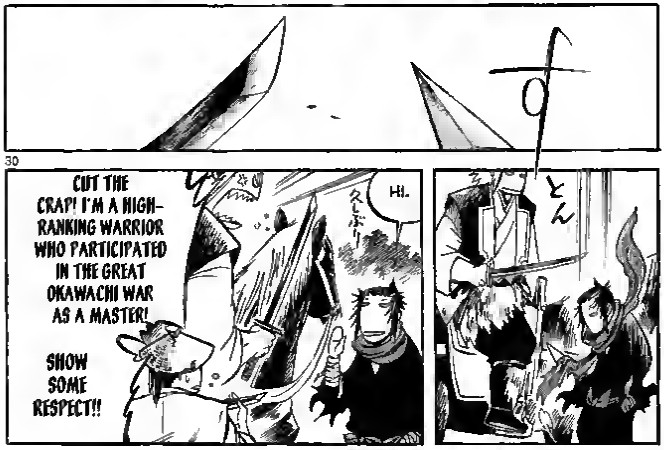
26 *"ENPI: LONG PROTRUDING ELBOWS (LIKE THOSE OF A MONKEY)*

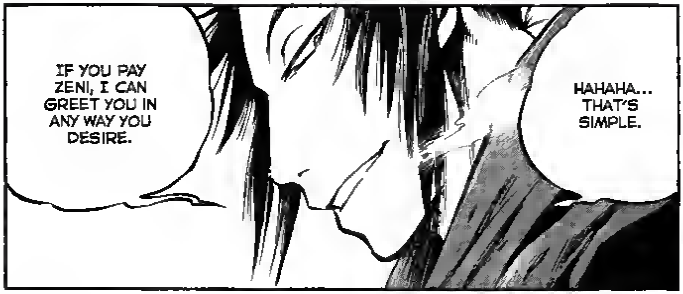
AN ODDLY LONG ARM.
THIS MUST BE THE SECRET BEHIND THE TIGHTLY DRAWN BOW.


ARE YOU TRYING THE SAME TRICK TWICE?

AS I THOUGHT... THIS ISN'T GOOD.

MUMON!
HEH! TRY IT IF YOU CAN...
IT'D BE BETTER IF I KILL YOU OFF QUICKLY, YOU KNOW?

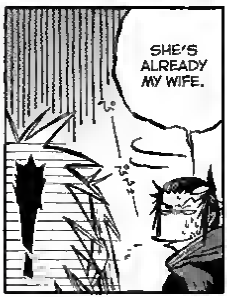

30
CUT THE CRAP! I'M A HIGH-RANKING WARRIOR WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE GREAT OKAWACHI WAR AS A MASTER!
SHOW SOME RESPECT!!
HI.
ひさしぶり
とん


IF YOU PAY ZENI, I CAN GREET YOU IN ANY WAY YOU DESIRE.
HAHAHA... THAT'S SIMPLE.

WHAT...? DON'T YOU KNOW...?

HAVE YOU FINALLY MADE HER YOUR WIFE? THE PRINCESS OF AKI.

TCH, A GENUINE IGA PERSON...
!
MUMON IN THE FLESH!
WHAT?
I HAVE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU.

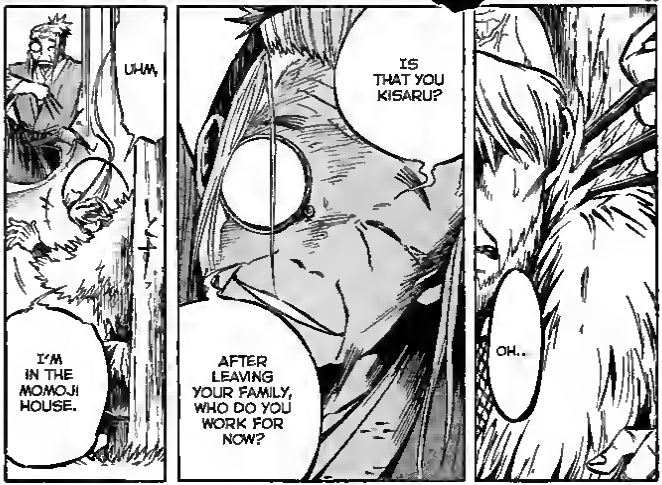

SHE'S ALREADY MY WIFE.

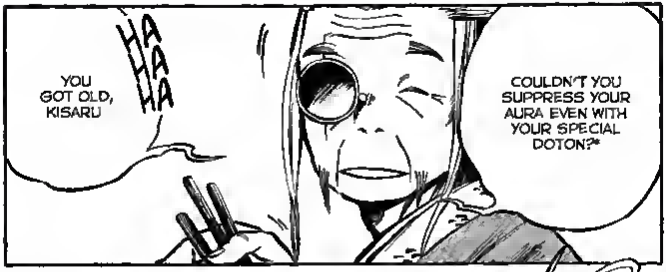
FUHAHA HAHAHA, YOU'RE SO BAD AT LYING! EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A SHINOBI.
SHUT UP.

ボコッ
ガコッ

?!!

33


UHM,
I'M IN THE MOMOJI HOUSE.
AFTER LEAVING YOUR FAMILY, WHO DO YOU WORK FOR NOW?
IS THAT YOU KISARU?
OH..


HA HA HA
YOU GOT OLD, KISARU
COULDN'T YOU SUPPRESS YOUR AURA EVEN WITH YOUR SPECIAL DOTON?*

...WHAT
IT WAS JUST A GREETING YOU KNOW.

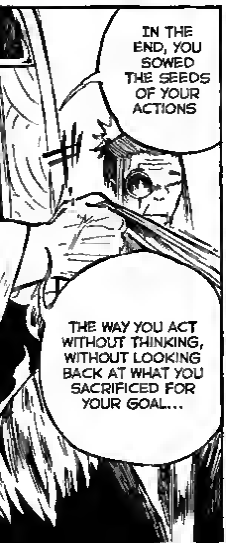
...IS THE BATTLEFIELD.
...with doton.
THE ONLY PLACE WHERE I SHOW MY REAL TECHNIQUE...
I will certainly kill this guy..

ALL OF THESE GUYS MUST HAVE BEEN SENT HERE BY THE HEIRAKU TEMPLE.
OH YEAH.

GENIN STYLES NEVER CHANGE, HUH?
GOOD GRIEF

WHEN YOU DEFECTED TO THE KITABATAKE HOUSE...
TSUGE

WE'RE GOING TO SEE AN AWFUL FARCE

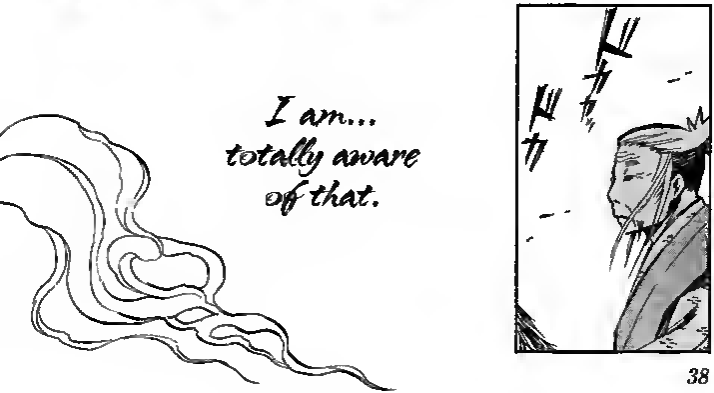

IN THE END, YOU SOWED THE SEEDS OF YOUR ACTIONS
THE WAY YOU ACT WITHOUT THINKING, WITHOUT LOOKING BACK AT WHAT YOU SACRIFICED FOR YOUR GOAL...

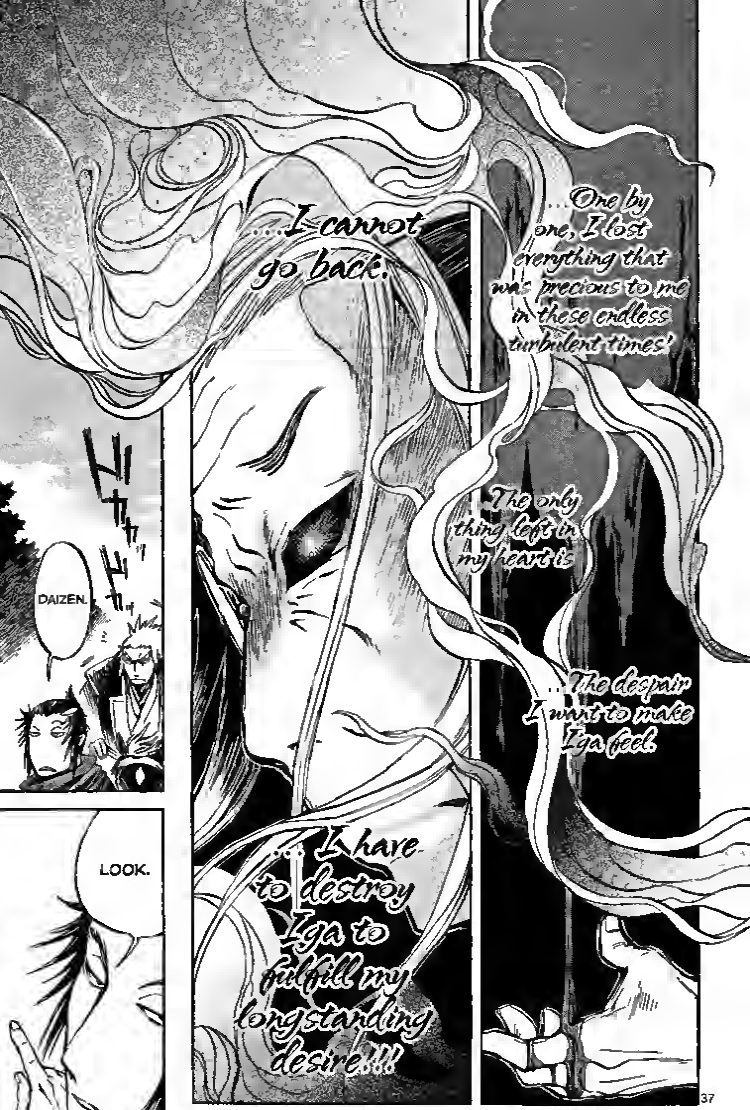
YOU GOT YOUR REVENGE WITH THAT SNEAKY MURDER A FEW DAYS AGO, BUT...

TOMONORI-SAMA EXECUTED YOUR WIFE AND NINE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER TO SET AN EXAMPLE.
YOU MUST BEAR A GREAT GRUDGE.

YOU ARE JUST LIKE THOSE WHO YOU CALL INHUMAN!!

I DO NOT APPROVE OF YOU!
WHATEVER HE DOES, AN IGA WILL ALWAYS BE AN IGA.

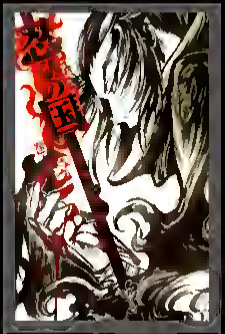

I am... totally aware of that.


...I cannot go back.
...One by one, I lost everything that was precious to me in these endless turbulent times!
The only thing left in my heart is
...The despair I want to make Iga feel.
...I have to destroy Iga to fulfill my long-standing desire!!!
DAIZEN.
LOOK.

THE HIRAKU TEMPLE.
YOU'VE FINALLY COME...

Shinobi no Kuni

by WADA Ryou & BANNO Mutsumi



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Shinobi no Kuni ch5

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yin and yang / good and evil

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- He/she will be able to read ahead whatever project he/she likes from the EGS project list (for a month)
- His/her artwork might be chosen for our ad page which will be added in every release we do

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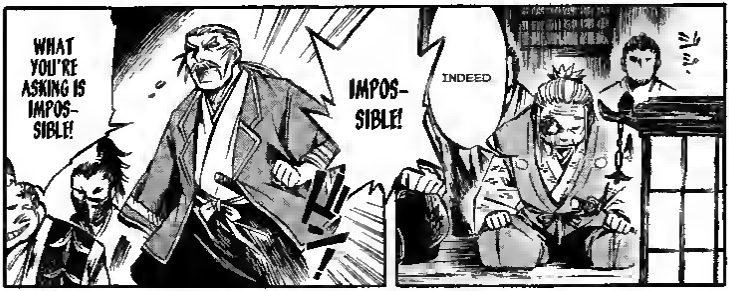
ANTI '11
Rhea is a stress Reliver. She has weights on her arms which reduce her speed but add quite a bit more strength to her punches... the chains can be removed depending on the circumstance. (Her name is from the Greek Mythology. Rhea is a Titaness, a daughter of Uranus and Gaia, name as the mother of the gods Rhea and Cronus as the immortal King and Queen of the Gods. This time was called the Golden Age)
Artwork: Rhea
by Lims_Kraehma
http://lims-kraehma.deviantart.com/

CHAPTER 6

TSUGE-DONO IS SAYING THAT YOU WANT TO REBUILD MARUYAMA CASTLE
HMM.
IN OTHER WORDS,


WHAT YOU'RE ASKING IS IMPOS-SIBLE!
IMPOS-SIBLE!
INDEED

4

WE WERE ACTU-ALLY VERY CURI-OUS ABOUT WHAT YOU WOULD SAY BUT...
AND ALSO YOU COMEING HERE AGAIN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS... THIS TIME AS THE MESSENGER OF ODA.
KITABATAKE ABANDONED THAT CASTLE SEVERAL YEARS AGO...

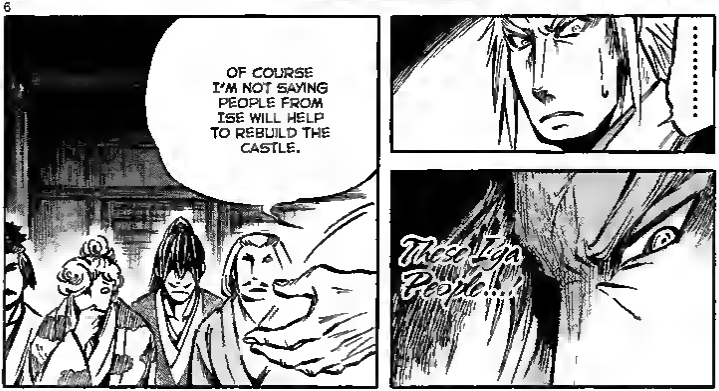
HEY, LOOK AT THAT
THAT'S RIGHT!
YEAH!
THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN LET THE PEOPLE OF ISE BUILD A CASTLE IN THE BORDERS OF IGA!

Can't be stupid enough to let foreigners build a castle...
Even someone from of Iga is
Their reaction is only natural.

I'M NOT SAYING ISE WILL BUILD IT.
?!
AS EXPECTED IT'S NOT REALLY...
TSUGE SAID THAT WE WILL AIM FOR THEIR WEAK POINTS, BUT...

THE LANDLORD OF ISE IS SUGGESTING THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE TWELVE HOUSE COUNCIL,
WHO ARE THE STRONGEST FAMILIES IN IGA.
WORK UNDER ODA IN THIS MATTER.
IN OTHER WORDS,
IF YOU ACCEPT OUR OFFER TO WORK FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF MARUYAMA,
WE ARE OFFERING TO BUILD TOUSEIBAYARI CASTLE FOR YOU.
IN RETURN,

6


OF COURSE I'M NOT SAYING PEOPLE FROM ISE WILL HELP TO REBUILD THE CASTLE.
.....
These Iga People....

FURTHER-
MORE, WE
WILL
COVER ALL
EXPENSES!

おお
!!!!
!?
HMM.
WHAT DO YOU THINK GUYS...?
TH... THIS, IS FOR THAT CASTLE...?
IS THAT A PAYMENT FOR TAMARU CASTLE TOO?
OF COURSE, THIS IS JUST AN ADVANCED PAYMENT.

IMPOS-
SIBLE...!
YES!
YEAH
DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS A GOOD DEAL?!

Just by seeing the money...
They all put their guard down

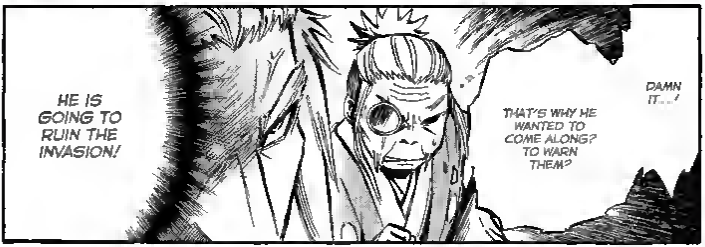
A...I thought these guys are...

Can such a small thing be the weak point of Iga?!

ARE YOU ALL IDIOTS?!
!?
ざっ

HEY!
NOBUKATSU IS PLANNING TO INVADE IGA!
WHILE YOU ARE RECONSTRUCT-ING THE CASTLE, ISE WILL ATTACK, THAT IS THE PLAN!

CAN'T YOU EVEN GRASP SUCH A SIMPLE PLAN?!

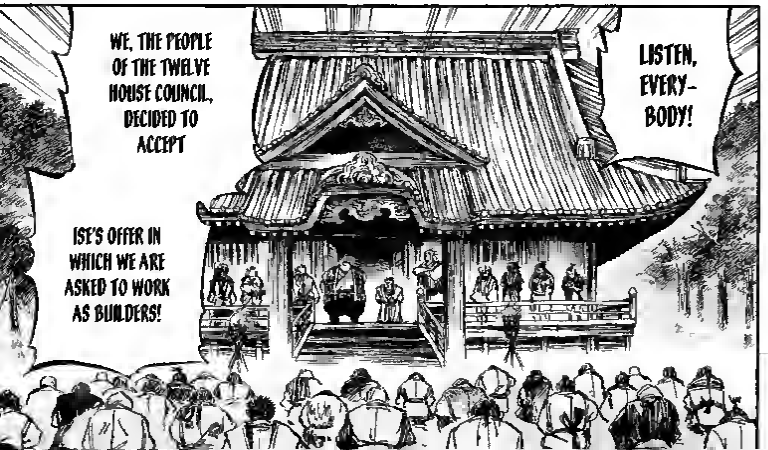

HE IS GOING TO RUIN THE INVASION!
THAT'S WHY HE WANTED TO COME ALONG? TO WARN THEM?
DAMN IT...!

11

HUH?!
HAH AHAH AH!

THAT'S WHAT WE WERE SUSPE CTING...
PHEW! THAT'S A RELIEF!
IF NOBUKATSU-SAMA DESIRED TO INVADE IGA, HE WOULD HAVE ATTACKED DIRECTLY WITHOUT THE NEED FOR THAT CASTLE BUILT.
IN-DEED.
Eh?
ARE EVIDENCE THAT THERE IS NO SUCH A PLAN.
BUT, YOUR WORDS JUST NOW.
Huh?
12
ヒヒヒ
BUT ANYHOW... THERE IS NO WAY TO WIN AGAINST US, YOU KNOW!

That is...
These guys...
I WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE
IF YOU EXCUSE ME
ヒャヒャヒャ
Money rescued us at the end...!!


WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE TWELVE HOUSE COUNCIL, DECIDED TO ACCEPT
ISE'S OFFER IN WHICH WE ARE ASKED TO WORK AS BUILDERS!
LISTEN, EVERY-BODY!

THE ONES WHO WILL WORK IN THE RECONS-TRUCTION WILL BE PAID BY THE ODA HOUSE.
SO, EVERYONE, ACCEPT THIS JOB WILLINGLY!
WE WILL RECONSTRUCT MARUYAMA CASTLE AS THE PROOF OF RE-CONCILIATION BUT,
おお!!

IT'S OK TO TAKE BREAK FOR SOME TIME FROM OUR USUAL JOBS!
IF THEY PAY AS WELL I COULD ALSO DO FARMWORK! IT'S IN THE SHINOBI JOB DESCRIPTION!

Money?
HMM...
.....

14

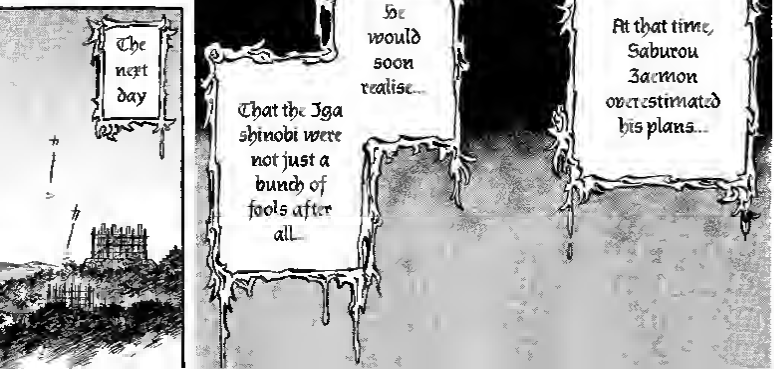
*T/N MONEY

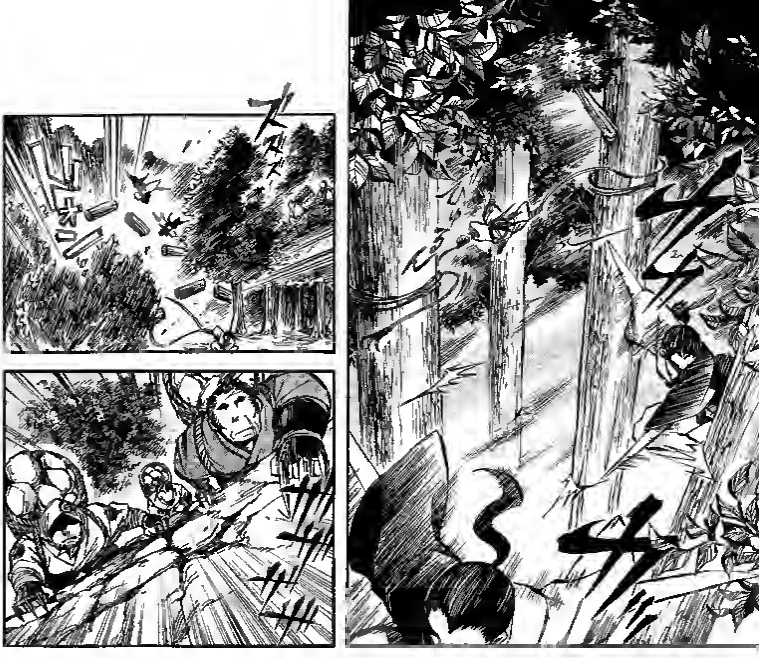
!!
!

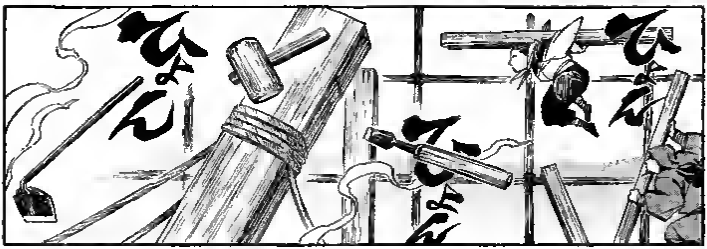
BOTH THE MASTERS AND GENINS ARE GETTING MORE AND MORE IDIOTIC!
How much will they give?
Zeni!
Zeni*!
わや
わや

GO BACK TO ISE, NOW!
I WILL TAKE COM-MAND FROM NOW ON.
IF THESE GUYS WEREN'T MORONS,
YOU COULD HAVE INSTANTLY RUINED THE IGA INVASION WITH THOSE WORDS!

How-ever...


The next day
He would soon realise...
That the Iga shinobi were not just a bunch of fools after all...
At that time, Saburou Jaemon overestimated his plans...





*SOMA IS A PERSON WHO LUMBERS AND USE THE WOODS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPLES ETC.

IF WE TRACE BACK TO THE ORIGINS OF SHINOBI TECHNIQUES,
ALL OF THEM WERE BORN FROM THIS KIND OF WORK THAT WAS DONE IN THE MOUNTAINS, THEREFORE THEY ARE CALLED MOUNTAIN MARTIAL ARTS.
THERE IS PROBABLY NO ONE ELSE WHO CAN BUILD LIKE THESE GUYS
HEY! YOU THERE!
WHY AREN'T YOU WORKING?!

HERE WE GO.
HEY MUMON!

What do you want?
KISARU

THE CASTLE'S PROGRESS!
You're getting in my way
WHAT?

WON'T IT BE THE FOOTHOLD OF AN IGA INVASION?
LETTING THE CASTLE BE REBUILT...

HOW IS IT?

IF NOBAKATSU ACCEPTED HIS OFFER, THIS MUST BE THEIR STRATEGY!
HE TOLD BUNGO WHAT HE IS WILLING TO DO...

MORON! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT SHIMOYAMA HEIBE DID?!
OF COURSE NOT. AREN'T WE BUILDING THE CASTLE BECAUSE WE HAVE A TRUCE?

I WONDER...?
GUAAA!

HEY!
.....
IT'S RAINING PEOPLE...

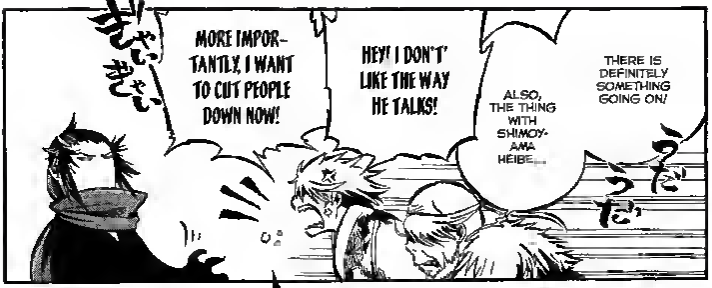
!?
ぐしゃ

SHUT UP!

YOU KNOW THAT WE'RE GETTING PAYED GENEROUSLY, RIGHT?!
DON'T CAUSE US ANY TROUBLE BY DOING SOMETHING STUPID

BESIDES, I DON'T WANNA DIE IN THIS PLACE!
WEAKLINGS LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T ORDER PEOPLE AROUND!
I HAVEN'T EVEN DECIDED TO GIVE THE CASTLE TO ISE.
I HATE BUILDING ANYTHING!
YOU ARE QUITE TENACIOUS.
NEEDLE... STRYCHNINE TREE.

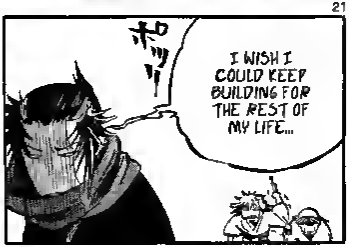
*STRYCHNINE TREE'S NEEDLES PARALYSE THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM.

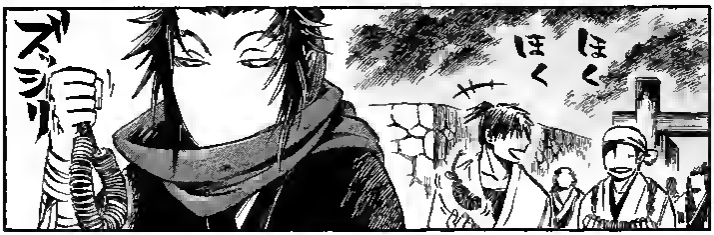

MORE IMPORTANTLY, I WANT TO CUT PEOPLE DOWN NOW!
HEY! I DON'T LIKE THE WAY HE TALKS!
ALSO, THE THING WITH SHIMOYAMA HEIBE...
THERE IS DEFINITELY SOMETHING GOING ON!

AS LONG AS I'M MAKING MONEY I DON'T CARE!
I DON'T CARE WHAT IT IS.

AARGH SHUT UP!

But...


I WISH I COULD KEEP BUILDING FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...



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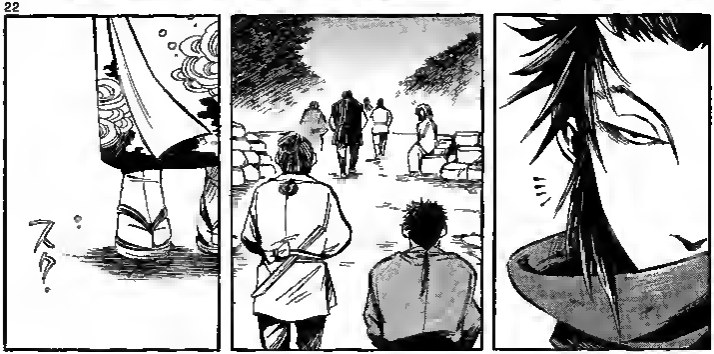
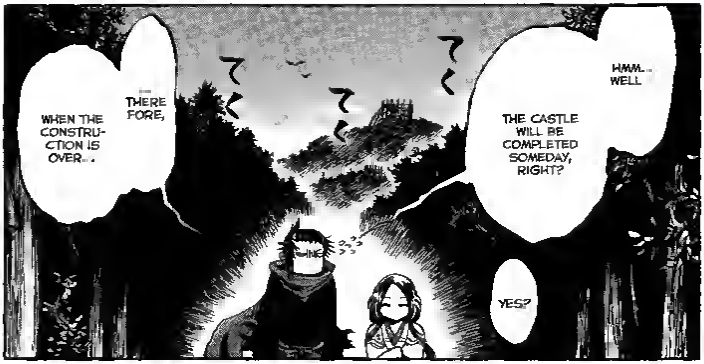
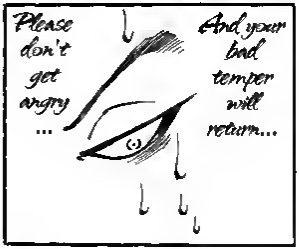


Momon-
dono!
This
forced
smile!

YOU'VE DONE A GREAT JOB!
じゃら
IN ONLY A COUPLE OF DAYS YOU GOT 150 MON AS PAYMENT
THIS ODA HOUSE SEEMS REALLY POWERFUL AND RICH, HUH.
YEAH.
BUT
IF THIS KEEPS UP,
THE CASTLE WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE


HMM... WELL
THE CASTLE WILL BE COMPLETED SOMEDAY, RIGHT?
YES?
THERE FORE,
WHEN THE CONSTRUCTION IS OVER...


Please don't get angry ...
And your bad temper will return....

will also be over.
THESE PAYMENTS, YOU KNOW...

25

HUH?

I KNOW IT WILL NOT ALWAYS BE LIKE THIS.

I THINK EVERYBODY IN THE TWELVE HOUSE COUNCIL SHOULD WORK UNDER THE ODA HOUSE FROM NOW ON
IF THAT HAPPENS, YOU CAN EARN 40 KAN IN A YEAR EASILY, AS YOU HAD PROMISED
I ALSO KNOW THAT THE CONSTRUCTION WILL BE OVER ONE DAY
HMM
BUT,
?!!
AND THE ROAD TO A SUCCESSFUL LIFE WILL OPEN UP FOR YOU MUMON-DONO!

THAT IS ..
UHM...
..HMM
IS SHE SAYING THAT I SHOULD BE LIKE THEM?!
Well, from what I've been told, Oda is very rough and cruel, just like a slave driver,
And also that man, Nobunaga, seems like a very bad tempered proprietor. They say he hate his vassal suddenly, without any reason.

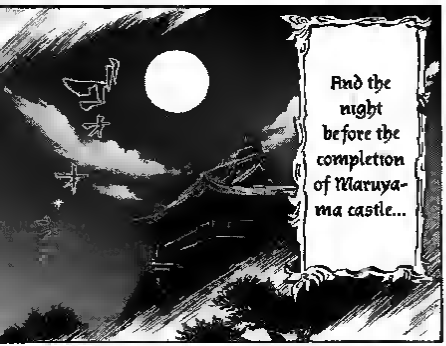
IT IS SAID THAT,
THE JISAMURAI OF OUMI PROVINCE, TAKIGAWA KAZUMASU -SAMA,
HASHIBA HIDEYOSHI-SAMA, WHOSE BIRTHPLACE IS UNKNOWN,
BECAUSE THEY ALL WORKED FOR ODA HOUSE!
AND MANY OF THE OTHER FAMOUS JISAMURAIS BECAME MORE AND MORE POWERFUL AND NOW HAVE SUCCESSFUL CAREERS

MUMON-DONO?
?
WHAT'S WRONG, YOUR HOUSE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
てく
てく…
How could I have a successful career in such a place...?
てく
てく
HMM,
I... WELL,
THAT...

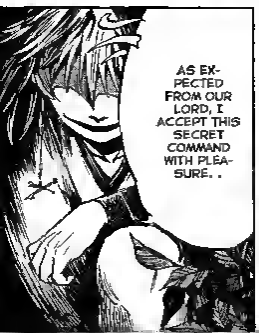
28

House of Tetsu

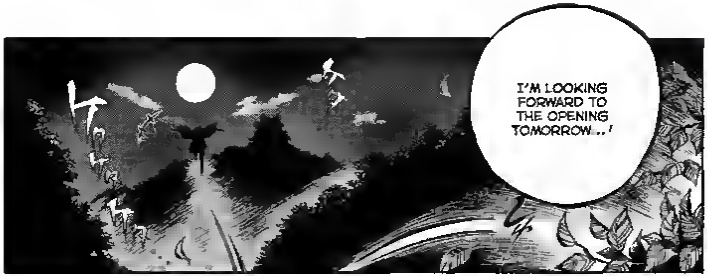
GET OUT!
NOO, WOMEN ARE SCARY.


And the night before the completion of Maruyama castle...

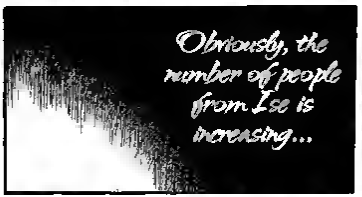
At the castle,
The inner citadel, the second bailey, the west bailey, the autumn bailey, and heaven story
Were completed in an instant.


AS EXPECTED FROM OUR LORD, I ACCEPT THIS SECRET COMMAND WITH PLEASURE. .

... AHA-HA-HA


I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE OPENING TOMORROW...!

I REALLY APPRECIATE ALL OF YOUR HARD AND LONG TERM EFFORTS.
OUR LAND LORD IS ALSO GRATEFUL TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF IGA.
DON'T MEN-TION IT!
IT WAS ALL DONE TO ISE'S ATTENTIVE INSTRU-CTIONS


Obviously, the number of people from Ise is increasing...

OHH, OH HO HO!
THIS IS THE REMAINDER OF THE PAYMENT FROM OUR LANDLORD.
IT IS A VERY TRIFLING AMOUNT BUT,
NO NO, THIS IS VERY...

It is said that those armaments are here for protection, but it seems it is not just for that.
ONCE YOU GET YOUR MONEY LEAVE THE CASTLE QUICKLY!
Nobukatsu probably ordered troops to slowly enter the castle!

And who knows what will happen to Okuni's good mood...
If a war breaks out, my future successful carrier will vanish...

... NO NO,
THEY CAN'T ATTEMPT A TAKEOVER.

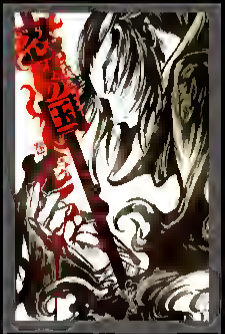
HEY MUMON, THIS IS GETTING BAD...

The Gates were closed vigorously, with a thunderous roaring.
...and that was...
6th year of tenshou (year 1578)
October 25
YES.
HAS EVERY-ONE LEFT?
CLOSE THE GATES.
...finally, the fight I've longed for...

THE BEGIN-NING...
Of the historical war known as "The Battle of Maruyama".....!
?
.....!

Shinobi no Kuni

by WADA Ryou & BANNO Mutsumi



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Shinobi no Kuni ch6

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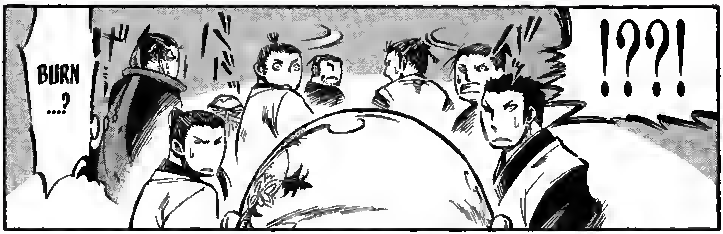
CHAPTER 7

It has taken too long...
DO NOT LET A SINGLE IGA SHINOBI THROUGH!
DEFEND THE GATES!
LET'S DRIVE THEM TO THE END OF THE WORLD AND KILL THEM ALL...
MY LONGSTANDING DESIRE BEGINS RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!!!
AFTER SO MUCH LOST... I'VE FINALLY REACHED MY GOAL.
2
WELL THEN,
BURN IT DOWN.


BURN ...?
!??!

WHAT ARE YOU SO SURPRISED ABOUT?
どよよっ!!

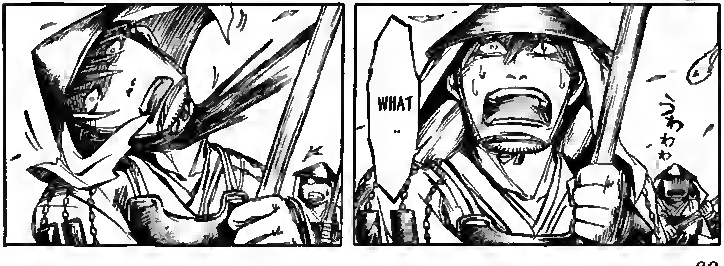
THE CASTLE, OF COURSE.
...HUH? ERM, MY LORD, WHAT EXACTLY DO WE BURN?

LOOK AT THAT
THE PARTY'S JUST GETTING STARTED!

YOU'VE ALREADY EARNED A LOT OF MONEY THROUGH IT.
AND NOW, THE WORK FOR THE CASTLE IS OVER!

!?!
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?!
WHAT THE HELL...
IMPOSSIBLE, IT'S AN IGA!
WHY...
WHY ARE YOU SOAK-ING WET...?
'CAUSE THERE'S GONNA BE A FIRE.

?!!
フッフッフ
6
SFX:AAAGGHHH


WHAT
..
わわわ

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!!!

GUAHH!

DAMN YOU!!!

What's going on?!
What... is this?

Don't tell me, you planned on burning down the finished castle from the very beginning...?
Did you turn all of Iga into shinobi and make them set this up beforehand?!
The strength of these flames...
!
!!
And I was the fool right from the start!
9
NO, DON'T!
OPEN THE GATES!!!!
AT THIS RATE, WE'LL ALL BE BURNED ALIVE!
RUN!
TSUGE-SAMA!

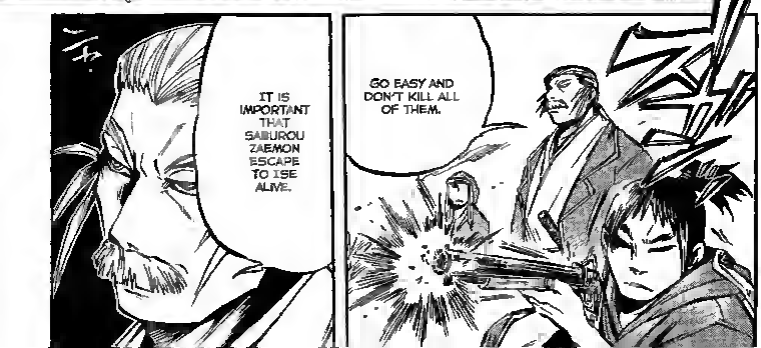
FIRE!!!

AHH ...
TSUGE-DONO... ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
PULL YOUR-SELF TOGE-THER!
TSUGE-SAMA, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!
...damn it
You damn wild animals...!!

EVERYONE, KEEP AD-VANCING!!!
ARM YOUR-SELVES AND PROTECT EACH OTHER.
AND NEVER RETREAT!

UNTIL ISE RISES TO THE TOP!!!

UGH


IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SABUROU ZAEMON ESCAPE TO ISE ALIVE.
GO EASY AND DON'T KILL ALL OF THEM.

GOOD GRIEF..
UNTIL YOU TOLD US THAT STORY, WE HAD NO IDEA.
16
EVERY LAST DETAIL,
WAS PLANNED BY YOU AND SANDAYUU, EH?

A JUTSU TO MAKE ODA NOBUKATSU DECIDE TO INVADE IGA!!

HOW WILL THE SHIMOYAMA HOUSE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS OUTRAGE?!
NATURALLY, WE ERUPTED WITH ANGER
WHEN WE LEARNED THAT HEIBE BETRAYED IGA
TO MAKE HIM BETRAY IGA
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH RESPONSIBILITY. I PUT MY OWN CHILD UNDER A JUTSU,
YET YOU RESPONDED TO THE QUESTION WITH A COOL MANNER
IN ISE, THERE IS A MAN NAMED GANGUROU ZAEMON, WHO WOULD MOST LIKELY SYMPATHIZE WITH HIM,
I THOUGHT THAT IF HEIBE'S BROTHER WAS KILLED IN A MEANINGLESS FIGHT,
AND HE WOULD BEG NOBUKATSU TO SEND TROOPS TO IGA
HE WOULD PROBABLY GO TO ISE.
AND HE HAD NO WAY OF CARRYING OUT REVENGE BY HIMSELF,

THEN, DON'T TELL ME...
WHAT?!

THAT DAY ....
YOU USED MUMON TO KILL HEIBE'S BROTHER JIROBE ON PURPOSE
AND THAT DUEL WAS SET SPECIFICALLY TO PUT A JUTSU ON HIM...!!!

THE BIGGEST RISK OF OUR PLAN WAS THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN SEEN FIGURED OUT BY SANBUROU ZAEMON
IT WAS NECESSARY FOR HEIBE TO CHANGE SIDES BY HIS OWN WILL

AND IF WE PRETENDED TO ACCEPT HIS CONDITIONS AND HAVE THE TABLES TURNED ON
STILL PROBABLY SCORNS US AND WOULD OFFER TO CONTINUE CONSTRUCTING THE CASTLE JUST LIKE HE DID DURING KITABATAKE'S TIME
SANBUROU ZAEMON WHO SHOWED HEIBE IN
THAT WILL BE THE FINAL SCENE
WE THE IGA PEOPLE WILL CRUSH THOSE TROOPS AND...
AND DECIDE ON AN IGA INVASION!!
NOBUKATSU WOULD GIVE IN TO HIS ANGER
WITHOUT A DOUBT,
BY DOING THAT...
IF YOU HAD FORSEEN THAT MUCH WHY DID WE HAVE TO DRAG THEIR TROOPS INTO IGA?!
STOP SCREWING WITH ME!!

Iga's military fame will rise beyond the heavens!!!
And as the ones who defeated troops of the Oda* house,
AS A CONCLU-SION...
SOON, REQUESTS FROM FEUDAL LORDS OF EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WILL START TO POUR IN.
WE WILL BECOME VERY VERY RICH...!!!
IF WE DEFEAT THAT PIECE OF SHIT ODA,

OF COURSE, ONLY WE OF THE TWELVE HOUSE COUNCIL MUST KNOW OF THIS
EXCEPT FOR BUNGO, WHO WAS JUST GIVEN A SECRET ORDER FROM US, THE GENINS HAVE NO NEED OF KNOWING THIS. THEY ARE MERELY PAWNS!
HEHEH.

ゴオ

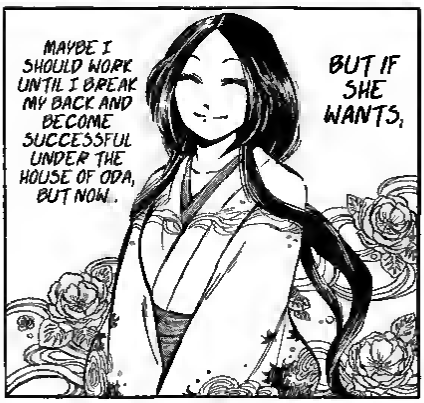
ヒュヒュヒュヒュヒュ

Sometimes, I...

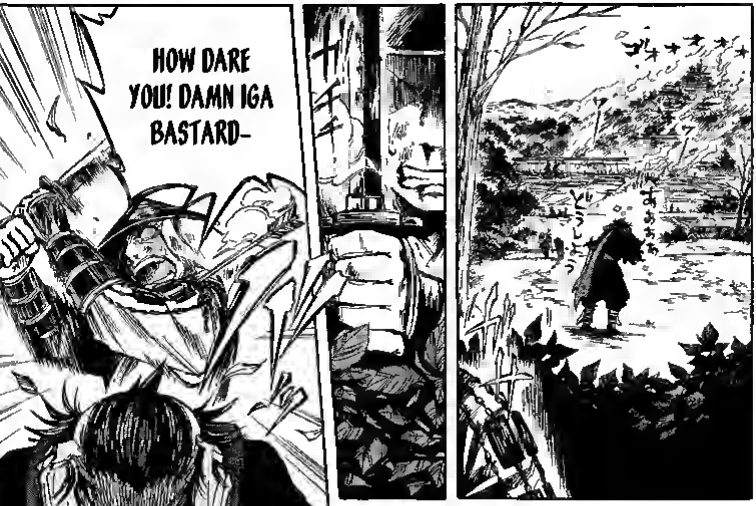
Feel that all I want...

Is to earn a little money through shinobi jobs

And live a life at ease with Otori...



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW, MUMON-DONO...!
THEN YOU..!!
THERE'S GOING TO BE A WAR AGAINST ISE..?

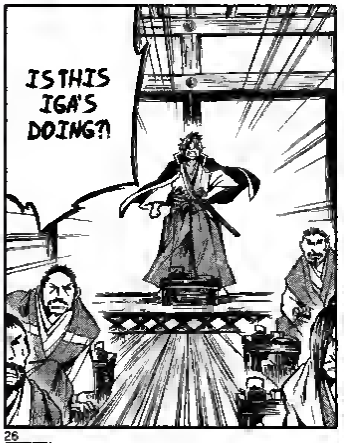

HOW DARE YOU! DAMN IGA BASTARD-

HEY, I'M THINKING HERE..
DON'T INTERRUPT ME.

Hmm... I don't wanna go back...

ワヤ
ワヤ…
Country of Ise
Tamaru Castle
MY LORD!! TSUGE-SAMA HAS COME BACK!
!
HE'S BACK, EH? FINALLY, WITH GOOD NEWS OF MARUYAMA CASTLE'S TAKEOVER
に
25

?!!


IS THIS IGA'S DOING?!

I...
I AM TERRIBLY SORRY

MY LORD

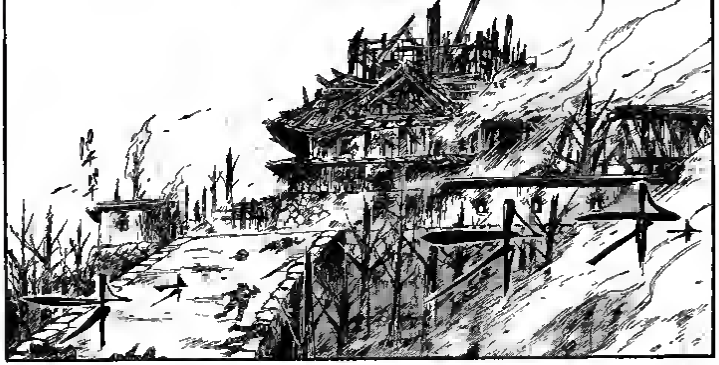
OVER A THOUSAND OF MY MEN...
HAVE BEEN KILLED...

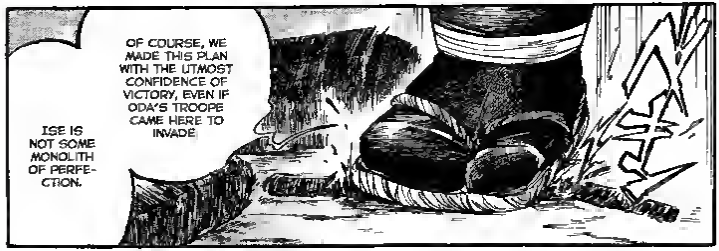
27

WE WILL INVADE IGA AT ONCE!!
GATHER ALL THE TROOPS!!

YES, PLEASE, WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MEN...
MY LORD! PLEASE, CALM DOWN AND RECONSIDER.
MAKE PREPARATIONS, IMMIDIATELY!!
NO, THIS IS UNFORGIVABLE!!
NO MATTER WHAT, WE WILL INVADE.
AND TEACH THEM A LESSON THEY WON'T FORGET!
!?
MY LORD!!

WHAT...
...!
AS A MEMBER OF THE HEKI HOUSE, I REFUSE TO INVADE IGA.
ズン
DAIZEN!
HOLD ON, YOU BAS-TARD...
29

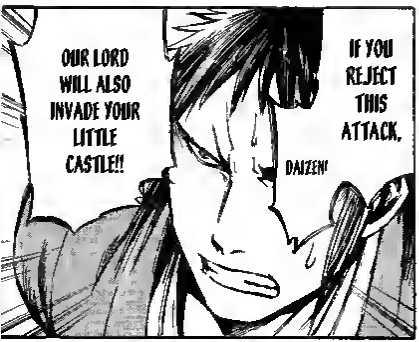



OF COURSE, WE MADE THIS PLAN WITH THE UTMOST CONFIDENCE OF VICTORY, EVEN IF ODA'S TROOPE CAME HERE TO INVADE.
ISE IS NOT SOME MONOLITH OF PERFE-CTION.

30

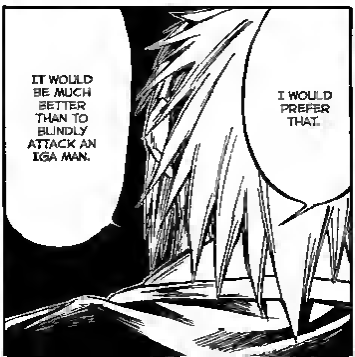
WITHOUT DOUBT,
SOMEONE AMONG THEM WILL HOLD A GRUDGE FOR IT...
IF YOU MAKE PEOPLE TAKE PART IN ASSASSI NATING THEIR FORMER LORD,
WHEN HE MADE A SENIOR FAMILY MEMBER SHOOT KITABATAKE TOMONORI
WELL, THAT WAS A MISTAKE ON NOBUKATSU'S PART

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
I'M GOING BACK TO THE CASTLE IN NANOKA ITY
DAIZEN!
HEKI DAIZEN !!!


OUR LORD WILL ALSO INVADE YOUR LITTLE CASTLE!!
IF YOU REJECT THIS ATTACK,
DAIZEN!

AFTER MARUYAMA CASTLE GOT BARBECUED, IF OUR LORD GOES THROUGH WITH THIS IGA INVASION WITHOUT YOU, YOU'LL ONLY LOSE YOUR OWN PRESTIGE....
ALSO ...

NOW LISTEN, SAKIYOUNO-SUKE.
DAMN YOU DAIZEN..


IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER THAN TO BLINDLY ATTACK AN IGA MAN.
I WOULD PREFER THAT.

AT THAT TIME IT WAS AS IF WE MOCKED A DYING PERSON, THEN KILLED HIM AFTERWARDS...
EVEN IF WE HAD DONE NOTHING THE KITABATAKE HOUSE WOULD PERISHED EITHER WAY.
IF I DIDN'T, MY VASSALS AND I WOULD SUFFER A CALAMITOUS END, HE SAID.
BACK THEN TOMONORI-SAMA ORDERED ME
TO DELIVER THE KILLING BLOW TO HIM.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE OTHERS WILL DO, BUT,
I WILL NEVER BEHAVE LIKE THAT TO THE WEAK AGAIN.
NOT EVER AGAIN!!!

THESE ARE TURBULENT TIMES.
THAT IS NOT THE KIND OF WORLD WE LIVE IN...
BUT...
HOWEVER, I WILL NEITHER OBEY NOBUKATSU
NOR VANISH BY YOUR HANDS...!
YOU ARE CORRECT, SAKIYOUNO-SUKE.
WHEREAS THE WEAK EITHER OBEY OR VANISH...
THE STRONG LEAD THE PEACE ON EARTH,
THERE IS NO OTHER WAY OF LIVING!

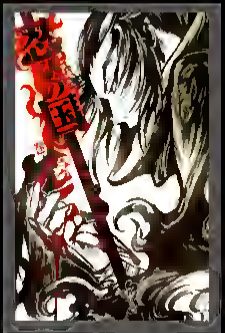
BESIDES HIM, THE ONLY CAPABLE COMMANDER WOULD BE NAKANO SAKIYOUNOSUKE.
I REALIZED THAT WHEN HE ARRIVED HERE AS A MESSENGER.
AND ALSO HE WILL CERTAINLY REFUSE THE MILITARY COMMAND OF THE IGA INVASION!
'HE' WILL DEFI-NITELY SAY THAT,

WE ARE A SMALL COUNTRY INDEED
BUT AGAINST A TROOP WITHOUT HEKI DAIZEN LEADING IT
THE VICTORY, UNDOUBTEDLY, WILL BE OURS!!

NOBUKATSU WILL COME TO INVADE, BUT...
IGA WILL CERTAINLY WIN.
HE WILL NEVER FOLLOW NOBUKATSU!
DAIZEN!
IF I CHOOSE TO FOLLOW NOBUKATSU,
I WILL CHOOSE SUCH A WAY THAT I CAN STIR UP THE BATTLE AND FIGHT UNTIL I HAVE A SPECTACULAR DEATH!!!

Shinobi no Kuni

by WADA Ryou & BANNO Mutsumi



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Shinobi no Kuni ch7

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Artwork from manga Shinobi no Kuni

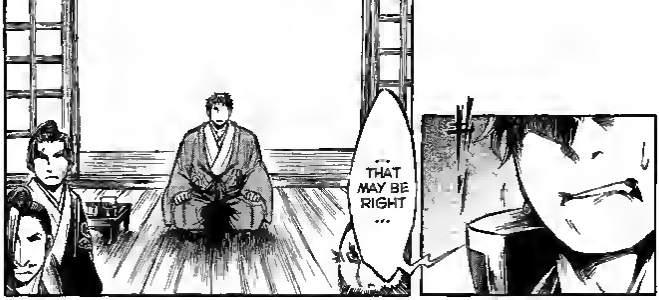
ドカッ
!
……

DID DAIZEN CHANGE HIS MIND?

AS I THOUGHT, DAIZEN WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE WAR AGAINST IGA.

IF YOU INTEND TO ATTACK IGA WITHOUT DAIZEN
THEN LIKE DAIZEN, I REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS WAR, TOO!
GOHO-NJO
During the assassination of Tomonori, he saved my life..
This time, I am also prepared to sacrifice myself for a friend!!
AFTER THIS, YOU CAN DECIDE TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
!
BUT IF WE ARE TO LOSE DAIZEN'S MILI-TARY PROWESS, THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN WIN AGAINST IGA.
HAVING SAID THAT, IGA IS A SMALL AND WEAK COUNTRY.
THERE'S NO POSSIBILITY OF US LOSING THIS WAR, BUT IN CASE WE DID, GOHONJO'S MILITARY FAME WILL BE TARNISHED THROUGHOUT THE LAND.

SABU-ROUZA!!
This can't be true, right?!
Me, losing!? Moreover, losing to Iga just because Daizen is not participating...
THIS BAS-TARD...
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THIS?!
...WITHOUT DAIZEN,
I BELIEVE IT WILL END IN OUR DEFEAT...!
ヒュ
.....
5



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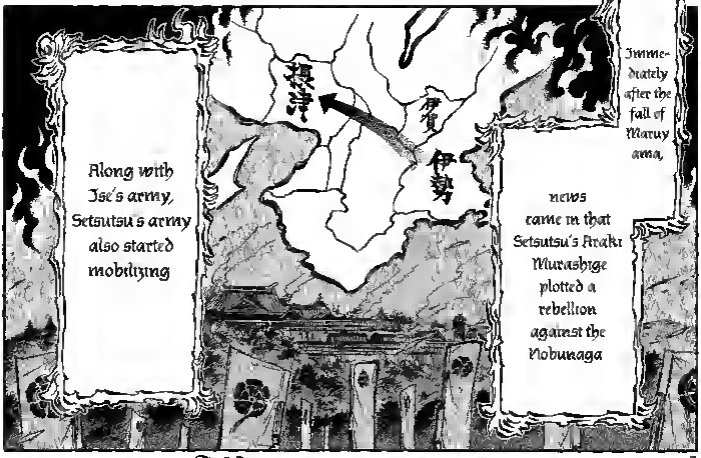
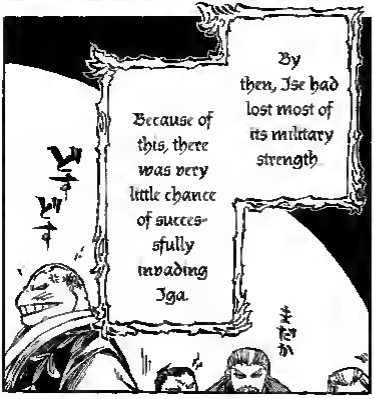
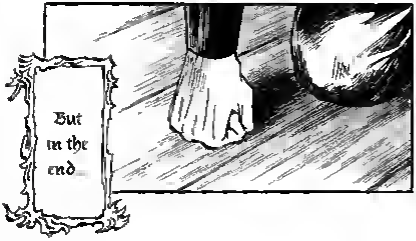
be-
cause...

Nobukatsu continued hiding his intention to invade Iga...

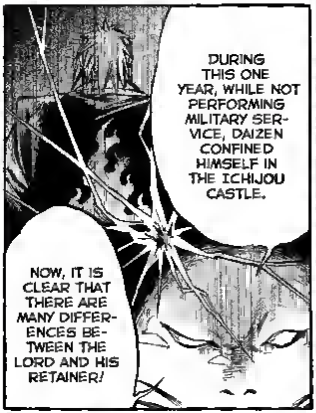
T N: ARAKI MURASHIGE AND HIDEYOSHI WERE RETAINERS OF ODA NOBUNAGA

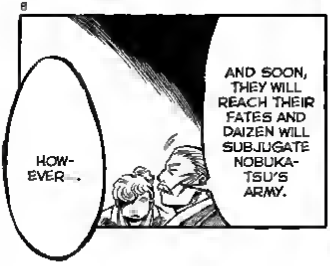

Immediately after the fall of Maruyama,
news came in that Settsu's Araki Murashige plotted a rebellion against the Nobunaga
Along with Ise's army, Settsu's army also started mobilizing
摂津
伊賀
伊勢


By then, Ise had lost most of its military strength
Because of this, there was very little chance of successfully invading Iga.
ハッハッハ
まだか



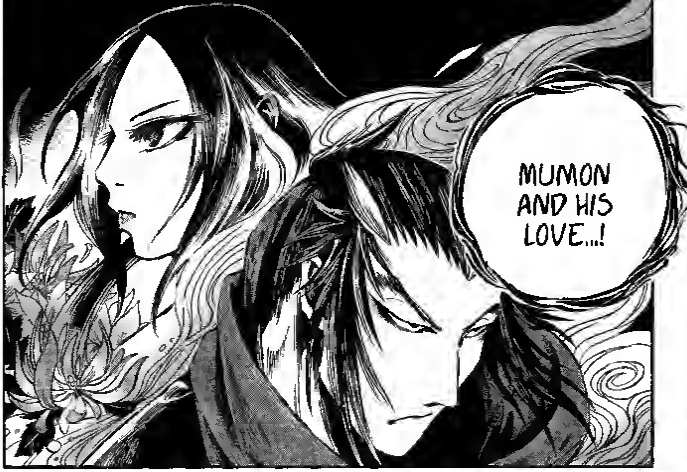
FINALLY!
MOREOVER,


DURING THIS ONE YEAR, WHILE NOT PERFORMING MILITARY SERVICE, DAIZEN CONFINED HIMSELF IN THE ICHIJOU CASTLE.
NOW, IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE LORD AND HIS RETAINER!


AND SOON, THEY WILL REACH THEIR FATES AND DAIZEN WILL SUBJUGATE NOBUKATSU'S ARMY.
HOWEVER...

Nearly one year had passed since the autumn of 1579 when,
the Twelve Houses Council received the news from their spy genins that Nobukatsu had returned to Tamarujou Castle.

IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE THAT DAIZEN WON'T PARTICIPATE IN THE INVASION OF IGA,
BUT IF THIS CONTINUES, DON'T YOU THINK NOBUKATSU MIGHT CALL OFF THE ATTACK...?
!?
INDEED.
SO... IN ORDER TO MAKE THEM CONTINUE THEIR ATTACK WITHOUT DAIZEN,
THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON WHO HAS TO BE MANIPULATED.
WHO'S THAT?



10

SO, IGA'S GENIN WILL FORTIFY THE DEFENSES OF THE THREE PATHS
BEFORE ISE'S ARMY APPEARS AND AMBUSHES THEM!!
NOBUKATSU'S ARMY WILL BE COMING SOON TO INVADE IGA!!
IF YOU DIE FIGHTING VALIANTLY WHILE PROTECTING YOUR HONOR,
ACCOMPLISH THE FEAT OF KILLING MANY PEOPLE AND
YOUR PRAISES WILL BE SUNG FOREVER BY THE GENERATIONS TO COME!!!
YOUR NAME WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN AND...
11
CAN WE REALLY DO THIS?
ISN'T ALL THIS BECAUSE WE BURNT DOWN THE CASTLE?
IS THIS FOR REAL?
HOO-RAY!!!
ALSO

IF WE GO TO WAR, WHO IS GOING TO PROVIDE US WITH ZENIS?
WE ARE NOT GOING TO RISK OUR LIVE FOR—
Momon, you... I knew you would come.
WHO WILL PAY FOR OUR SERVICES? MORE THAN JUST A FOREIGN PROVINCE,
IT IS THE ONE WHICH HIRES US ALL.
I CALLED FOR YOU SPECIALLY AND YOU STILL TALK ABOUT SOMETHING AS PETTY AS MONEY?!

THEREFORE WE MUST UNITE AND FIGHT TOGETHER FOR IGA...
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN IGA'S LAW?!
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!
THE REASON FOR BURNING DOWN MARUYAMA CASTLE WAS BECAUSE WE SAW THROUGH NOBUKATSU'S PLAN TO INVADE IGA.
WE ARE FIGHTING TO DEFEND OURSELVES!!
AS A CITIZEN OF IGA, IF YOU DEFY ITS LAWS,
YOU MIGHT AS WELL PREPARE YOURSELF FOR OFATH!!
13

SHE'S DEFINITELY,

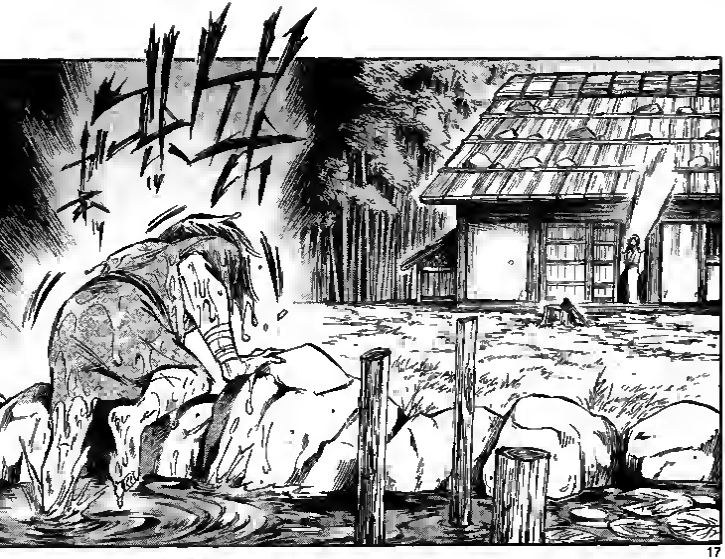
go back and tell this to that woman...

Go back...

GOING TO KILL ME...!!!

HEY MUMON!
CAN'T YOU MAKE LESS RUCKUS WHILE YOU COMING IN?
HUH ...?
IS MUMON-DONO HERE...?

TODAY, I'M GOING TO ASK HIM WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM!
SERIOUSLY! HE MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT A BURNT CASTLE, BUT ALL HE DOES IS TO AVOID ME.
IT'S BECAUSE LATELY YOU'VE HAD A BAD TEMPER.
HE LEFT THIS MORNING BUT HASN'T RETURNED .. YET...
...YIKES!
HAVEN'T MET HER MANY TIMES.... BUT CAN EASILY MAKE OUT THAT SHE'S ONE TOUGH CUSTOMER...
I'LL WAIT HERE!!
?
ばしゃん



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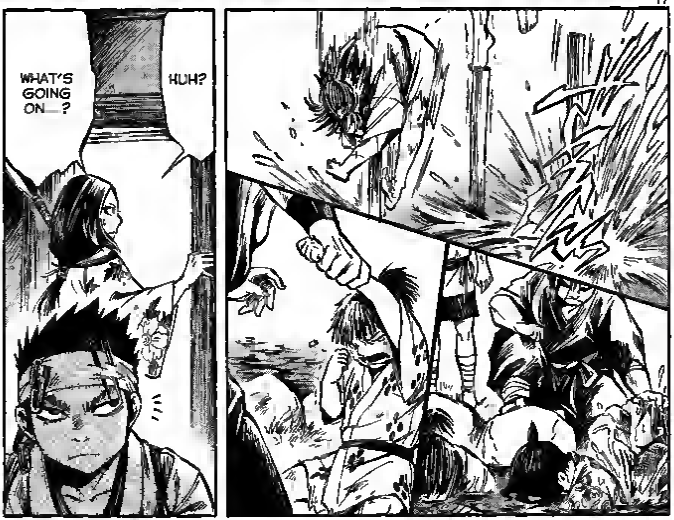
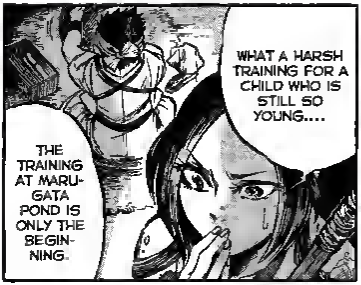
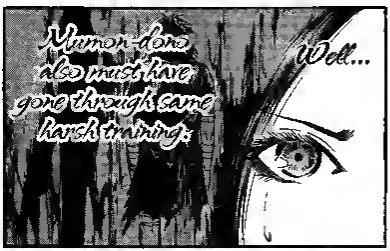
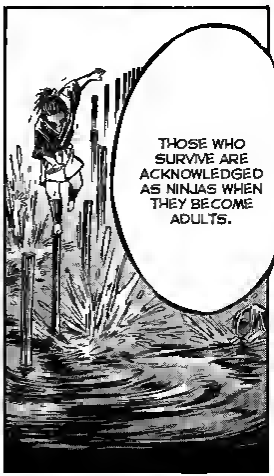



WHAT A HARSH TRAINING FOR A CHILD WHO IS STILL SO YOUNG....
THE TRAINING AT MARU-GATA POND IS ONLY THE BEGIN-NING.

THIS IS HOW GENIN CHILDREN ARE TRAINED IN NINJA TECHNIQUES.

DURING THE COURSE OF THIS TRAINING MANY PEOPLE TEND TO LOSE THEIR LIVES.
DRINKING POISON AND BREAKING THEIR BONES DELIBERATELY.
TO WITHSTAND SUCH HARD TRAINING, PEOPLE CONDITION THEIR BODIES BY...


Well...
Mumon-dono also must have gone through some harsh training.


THOSE WHO SURVIVE ARE ACKNOWLEDGED AS NINJAS WHEN THEY BECOME ADULTS.

YOU SAID YOUR NAME IS TETSU, RIGHT?
.....

YOU KNOW, RIGHT?!
MUMON DONO'S REAL NAME...
I... DON'T KNOW...
BECAUSE I'M NOT TETSU.
ME AND MY FATHER WERE DRIFTED AWAY FROM OUMI AND SINCE THEN WE'VE BEEN LIVING IN IGA.
...Come to think of it,
I don't know anything...

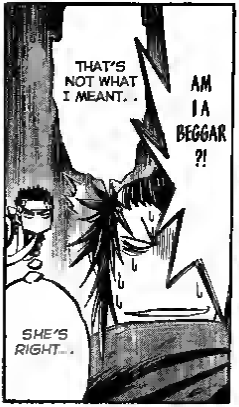
About Mumon or this country...
ガラン
!!!
I GOT IT!
SINCE YOU DESTROYED THE CASTLE THIS,
HAS BECOME AN UN-AVOIDABLE BATTLE, RIGHT?
WELL... THAT'S... RIGHT
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?
WHY ARE YOU HERE!?!
WHAT WILL YOU DO? YOU ARE LEFT WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO DEFEND IGA?!

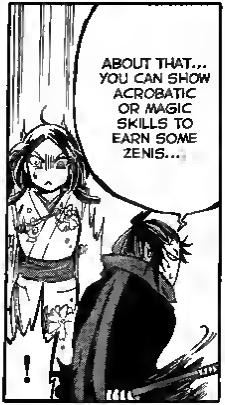
EVEN IF I FIGHT,
WE WON'T BE GETTING ANY COMPEN-SATION..
NO, !
ABOUT THAT
SO WHAT'S THE USE OF PARTICIPATING IN THIS LIFE-RISKING BATTLE!!?
21
EXACTLY! BUT EVEN IF I DON'T FIGHT, WE'RE GOING TO SUFFER TERRIBLY.
AT HEIRAKUJI,
SAN-DAYU'S FATHER IS...
THEN, WHAT WILL YOU DO?!

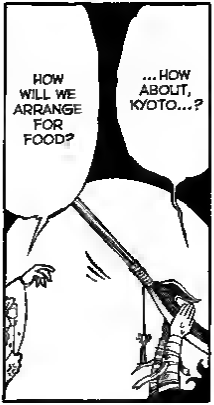
HOW ABOUT..
WE RUN AWAY TO ANOTHER PLACE?

AND WHERE DO YOU SUGGEST WE SHOULD GO?

22


THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT..
AM I A BEGGAR ?!
SHE'S RIGHT...


ABOUT THAT... YOU CAN SHOW ACROBATIC OR MAGIC SKILLS TO EARN SOME ZENIS...
!


...HOW ABOUT, KYOTO...?
HOW WILL WE ARRANGE FOR FOOD?

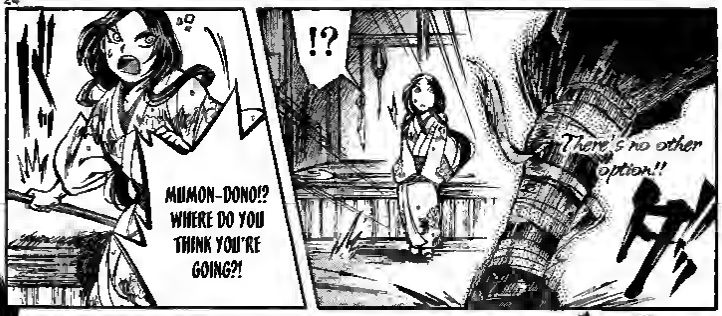
AS A NINJA, HOW CAN YOU EVEN SAY SUCH A THING!!
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF THROWING AWAY MY HOUSE AND BEGGING.
SINCE WE DON'T HAVE ANY ZENIS, RUNNING AWAY IS THE WORST IDEA!!!
...OK,
THEN, LET'S JUST STAY HERE

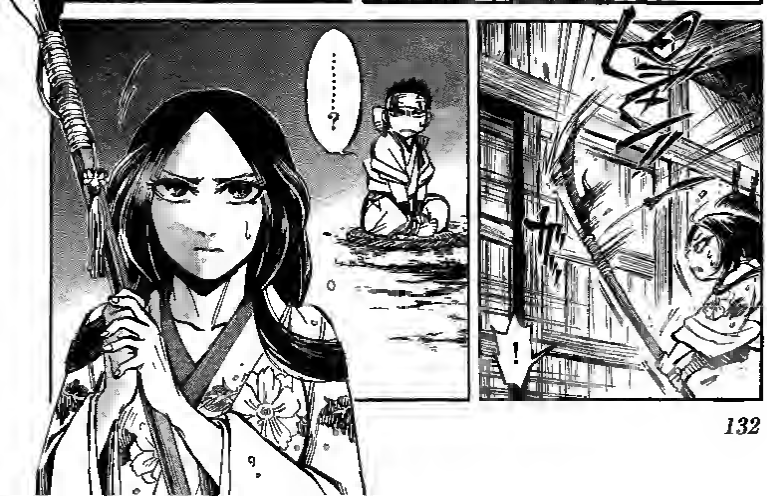
TN: CRAFTILY CONVINCED OKUNI TO STAY AND LET HIM JOIN THE WAR!!

Oh, man... What should I do?!
Ize's army has those bastards Daizen, Nagano Sakyounosuke and other guys of their caliber...
Iga will be destroyed if we mess up!!

We should try to negotiate with Ise,
But can this war really be stopped...?!

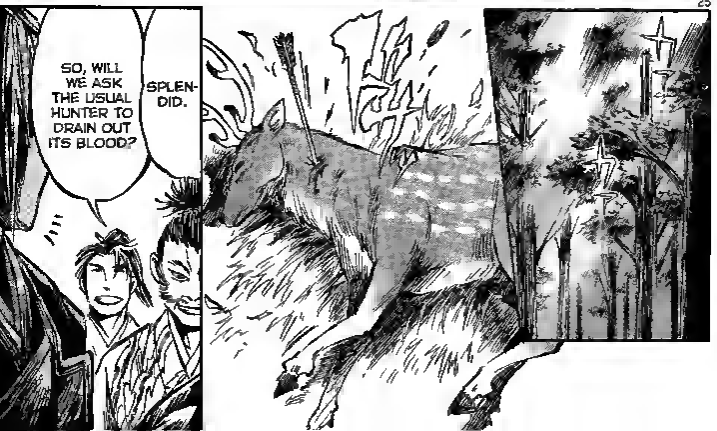
24


MUMON-DONO!? WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
!?
There's no other option!!


.....?
!

I DON'T THINK ANYONE WOULD LISTEN TO ME AT ISE,
EXCEPT HIM...

Ise, Nanokaichijou Shoryou, Takahachi Mountain


SPLENDID.
SO, WILL WE ASK THE USUAL HUNTER TO DRAIN OUT ITS BLOOD?

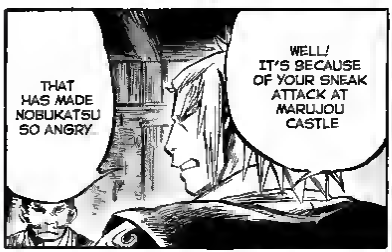
HM...

JIN-BEI,
WILL YOU DRAIN THE BLOOD PLEASE...
!!!

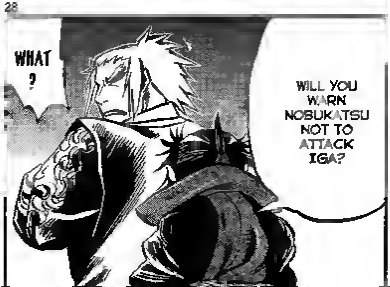
SEIZE HIM!!
MUMON?!
I GET IT, I GET IT.
TIE ME DOWN, IF YOU FEEL LIKE IT.
TIE HIM BUT LEAVE HIS SHOULDERS.
DAMN IT!! HOW DID YOU KNOW?
DRAIN OUT THE BLOOD, HUH? NO, I DON'T WANT TO.

WHY THE HELL DID YOU COME HERE?

...THAT'S BECAUSE...


WELL! IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR SNEAK ATTACK AT MARUJOU CASTLE
THAT HAS MADE NOBUKATSU SO ANGRY

THAT NOBUKATSU GUY, IS HE STILL ANGRY?

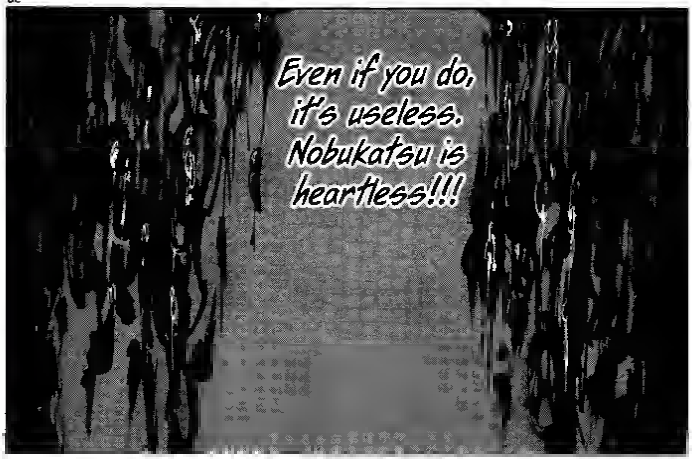

WHAT ?
WILL YOU WARN NOBUKATSU NOT TO ATTACK IGA?

NONSENSE.
EVEN IF I TRY TO PERSUADE HIM, THAT BRAT WILL JUST SAY THAT IT IS NOT MY BUSINESS.
BESIDES, I'LL CONVEY THE MESSAGE BUT I WON'T BE PARTICIPATING...
AS I THOUGHT,
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TALK TO HIM DIRECTLY
?
... LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING.
TYING THE ROPE WHILE,
LEAVING OUT THE SHOULDERS IS PRETTY BASIC STUFF.
BUT... NO NINJA IS AS SKILLED AS ME.
IT'S THE RIBS THAT SHOULD BE LEFT OUT.

……!
IT STILL HURTS A LOT, THOUGH.
YOU BASTARD! YOU WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE FROM THE ROPES BUT,
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM SUCH A SMALL ROOM?!
!?
WHAT THE

YOU SCUM!

Do you plan to sneak into Tamarujou Castle?!
Bastard-!


Even if you do, it's useless. Nobukatsu is heartless!!!

Shinobi no Kuni

by WADA Ryou & BANNO Mutsumi

Shinobi no Kuni ch8

Credits

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Translator: Raiden
Proofreader: Jaesun
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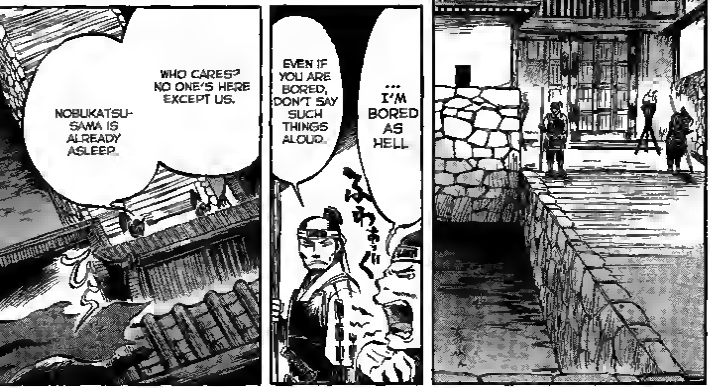
TO CHANGE OKUNI'S MOOD I MUST STOP THIS WAR!
GO TO NANOKAI-CHIJOU CASTLE AS FAST AS YOU CAN!
TAKE MY HORSE WITH YOU!!
DAIZEN-SAMA!?
SHIT!!
I AM GOING TO TAMARUJOU CASTLE!!

INDEED
YOU TRICKED MUMON INTO GOING TO ISE?!
WHAT!?
Iseta-kuji
HE BECOMES SO DESPERATE THAT HE WILL EVEN TRY TO STOP THIS WAR HIMSELF.
IF IT'S FOR HER,
MUMON'S LOVE,
SHE'S LIKE A THREAD THAT CAN BE USED TO CONVENIENTLY MANIPULATE MUMON'S FEELINGS
NOBUKATSU WILL BE COMING VERY SOON TO ATTACK IGA
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY
3
BUT...
THAT MIGHT BE TRUE...
IS THIS PLAN PERFECT...?!
BUT THAT'LL JUST HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT ON NOBUKATSU'S HEART.

WHAT'S THE GUARANTEE THAT MUMON WON'T KILL NOBUKATSU...?!

THAT BASTARD TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME!!
I HAVE DECIDED TO FIGHT AGAINST NOBUKATSU...

Late night
10 p.m.
Tamarujou
Castle


NOBUKATSU-SAMA IS ALREADY ASLEEP.
WHO CARES? NO ONE'S HERE EXCEPT US.
EVEN IF YOU ARE BORED, DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS ALOUD.
...I'M BORED AS HELL
ふわぁ～

SHIVER
YOU'RE NOBUKATSU, AREN'T YOU?
.....!
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT RAISING YOUR VOICE

SHIT....
NOBU-KATSU.
IS THIS REALLY NOBU-KATSU ...?
WELL, WHAT EVER .
WHAT'S YOUR AGE?
YOU LOOK PRETTY YOUNG FOR YOUR AGE. IT SEEMS YOU ARE GOING THROUGH MANY HARD-SHIPS.
?

MUMON HUH...
YOUR NAME IS,
IF YOU DO, I, MUMON WILL COME AGAIN WHEN YOU ARE SLEEPING.
FORGET ABOUT ATTACKING IGA
IF YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH AGAIN—

DO YOU THINK I WILL LISTEN TO A LOWLIFE NINJA LIKE YOU?!
?!!
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING, THIS RASCAL ...
NOT ONLY ON THE OUTSIDE HE'S JUST AN AMATEUR KID ON THE INSIDE, TOO.
GOHONJO!!
WHAT HAPPENED
UGH!

I, NOBUKATSU, WILL ELIMINATE YOU ALL!
YOU ARE A BUNCH OF MONSTERS!

THESE WEAKLINGS

YOU FOOLS!
WOAH... INCOMING.

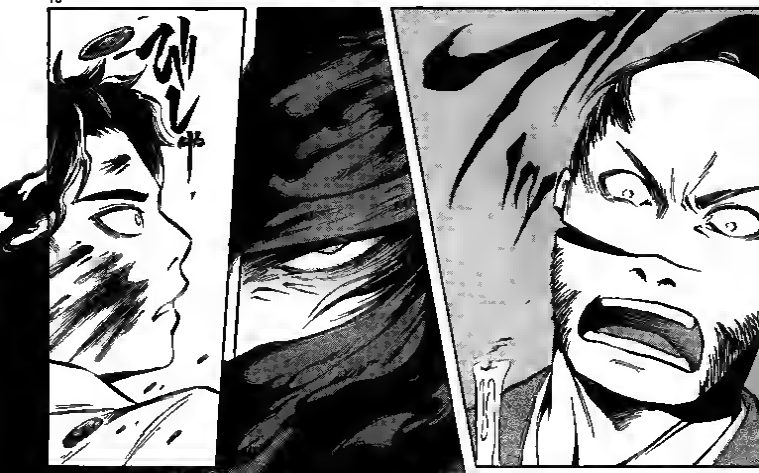
ドタ
ドタ
ドタ

I WILL DECAPITATE ALL THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND DISPLAY THEIR HEADS...
FOR THE PUBLIC TO SEE!!!

FU... HAHAHA! YOU'RE REALLY WORRYING ABOUT SOMETHING USELESS.
...MUMON MIGHT KILL NOBUKATSU...?

YOU SCUM!!!

10



THAT MAN IS THE STRONGEST NINJA OF IGA
THIS IS THE BEST PLAN...
IN NINJA HISTORY.
HUH

NOBUKATSU, I TOLD YOU NOT TO OPEN YOUR MOUTH...

HIS MIND AND BODY ARE DYED WITH LOVE FOR
ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT BORN IN IGA,

HEY NOBU-KATSU,
FOR HIM, DISRE-SPECTING A WOMAN IS THE SAME AS DISRE-SPECTING OKUNI.../
THE DARKNESS THAT PREVAILS IN EVERY IGA NINJA WON'T LET HIM DO NOTHING.

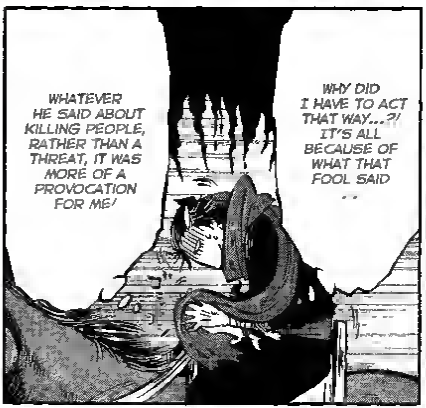
IN THAT CASE, YOUR HEAD IS MINE.
I WILL PERSONALLY TAKE YOUR HEAD OFF ON THE BATTLE-FIELD...
AND AFTER GRINDING YOUR NAME AND HONOUR INTO THE GROUND...
I WILL SEND YOU TO HELL!

...DAMN IT! WHAT'S THIS NOISE? AM I TOO LATE?!

15

ドカッ
ドカッ

ドカッ


WHATEVER HE SAID ABOUT KILLING PEOPLE, RATHER THAN A THREAT, IT WAS MORE OF A PROVOCATION FOR ME!
WHY DID I HAVE TO ACT THAT WAY...?! IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF WHAT THAT FOOL SAID
..

ドカッ
ドカッ

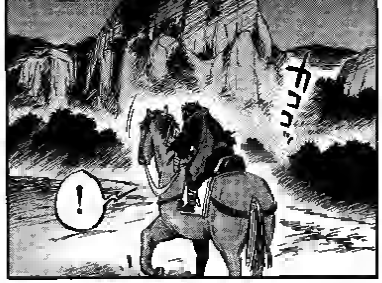
I'M SICK OF THIS SITUATION!

UHH...
BUT FOR THAT, WE JUST DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ZENIS!
I JUST WANT TO RUN AWAY WITH OKUNI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
IGA WILL BE FINISHED
NOBUKATSU WILL BE COMING TO ATTACK IGA SHORTLY AFTER I RETURN...

IN ONE DAY, I TRAVELLED FROM IGA TO ISE...
AND I DIDN'T EVEN GET ANY ZENIS FOR ALL THIS TROUBLE...
I'M GETTING REALLY TIRED, THOUGH...

16

CERTAINLY, THERE WAS A TEMPLE THAT BELONGED TO THE KITABATAKE FAMILY...
ISN'T THAT.. ISE SUMMIT...
DO PEOPLE SLEEP OVER THERE?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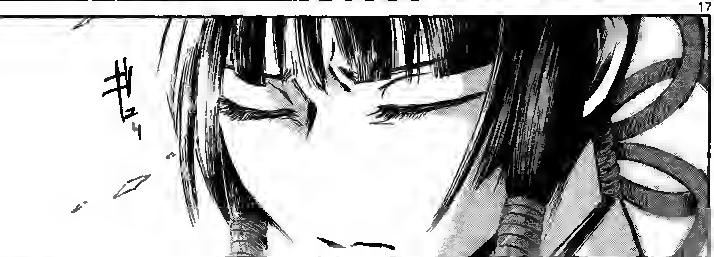
ガラ…
……


キュ

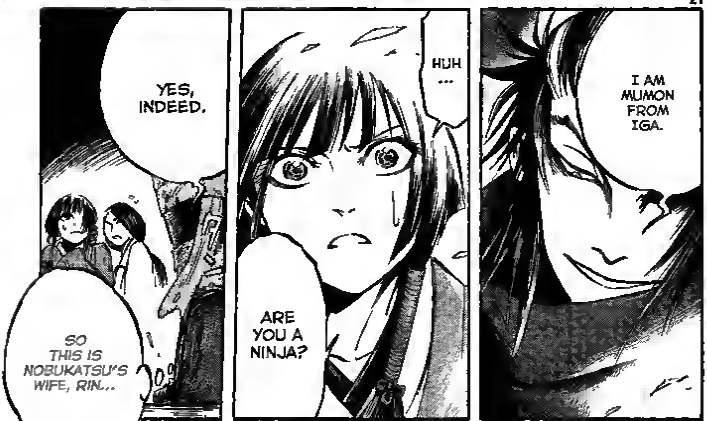
Father
...
PRAY WITH ALL YOUR HEART.
IF YOU DO SO, YOUR DESIRE
WILL DEFINITELY BE FULFILLED BY THE LORD.
WHAT IS YOUR WISH?
!!?

CHILD, WHAT IS YOUR WISH?
うわわ
THIS CAN'T BE...!
PRI— PRIN- CESS ...!
HUH?! ...UMMM NO ..
IS THIS GOD'S VOICE?!
THA T'S NOT POS SI BLE !
OH LORD,
PLEASE LISTEN AND FULFILL OUR WISH.
19

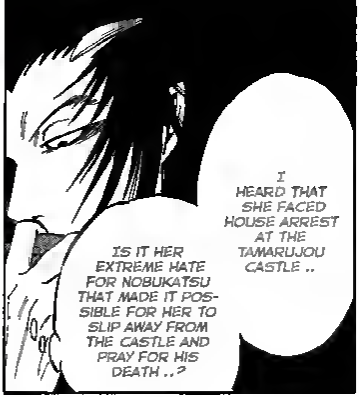
PLEASE AVENGE MY FATHER'S, TOMONORI KITABATAKE'S, DEATH
BY DESTROYING NOBUKATSU, HIS KILLER!

Kuku ku
kuku !!
AH!

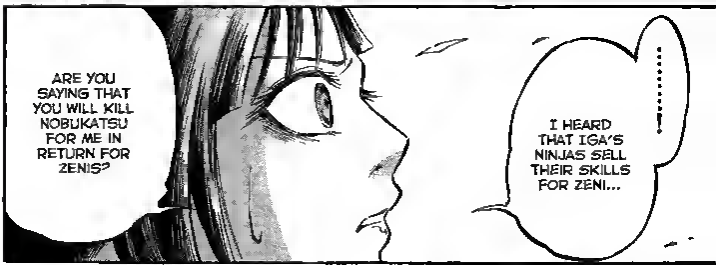
I DID NOT EXPECT TO MEET YOU AT SUCH A PLACE!
UGH!
GET OUT OF HERE!
AH!
.....


I AM MUMON FROM IGA.
HUH ...
ARE YOU A NINJA?
YES, INDEED.
SO THIS IS NOBUKATSU'S WIFE, RIN...

But it seems she was being deceived by that fraudulent ascetic...


I HEARD THAT SHE FACED HOUSE ARREST AT THE TAMARUJOU CASTLE ..
IS IT HER EXTREME HATE FOR NOBUKATSU THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR HER TO SLIP AWAY FROM THE CASTLE AND PRAY FOR HIS DEATH ..?

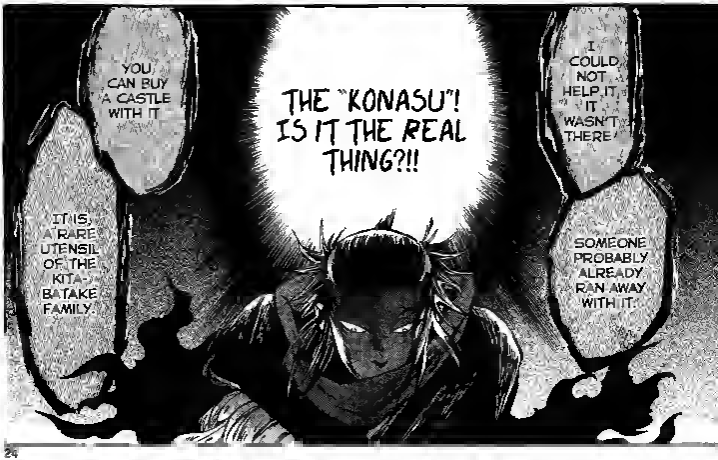
!?
This might just earn me some money ...!!
HOW ABOUT THIS
INSTEAD OF RELYING ON GOD, WOULD YOU RELY ON ME FOR ONCE?


ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU WILL KILL NOBUKATSU FOR ME IN RETURN FOR ZENI?
I HEARD THAT IGA'S NINJAS SELL THEIR SKILLS FOR ZENI...

BUT YOU SEE, MY CHARGES ARE A BIT HIGH
THAT'S RIGHT
She got it!

PRIN-
CESS
!?
.....?
THIS
THING HERE
IS WORTH
10,000
KAN.

DAMN YOU! DOES ROBBERY EVEN REQUIRE ANY SKILL?!
BUNGO, DID YOU BRING THE KONASU?


THE "KONASU"! IS IT THE REAL THING?!!
YOU CAN BUY A CASTLE WITH IT
IT IS A RARE UTENSIL OF THE KITABATAKE FAMILY
I COULD NOT HELP IT IT WASN'T THERE
SOMEONE PROBABLY ALREADY RAN AWAY WITH IT

TALK ABOUT EARNING A LITTLE MONEY..

I WAS SO LUCKY TO COME HERE...!!!

Shinobi no Kuni

by WADA Ryou & BANNO Mutsumi

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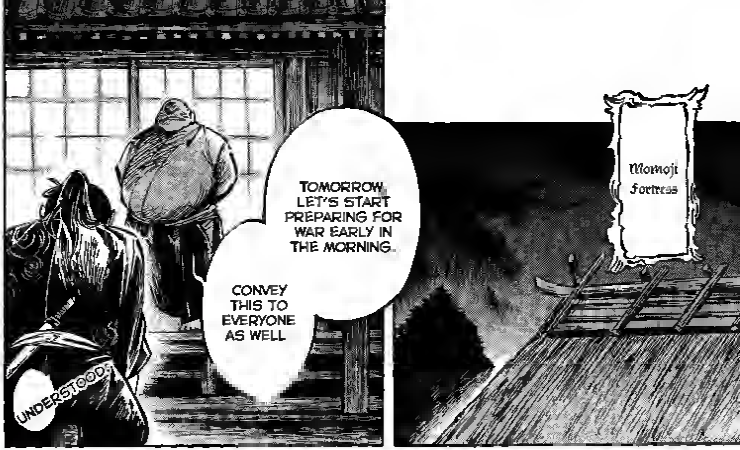
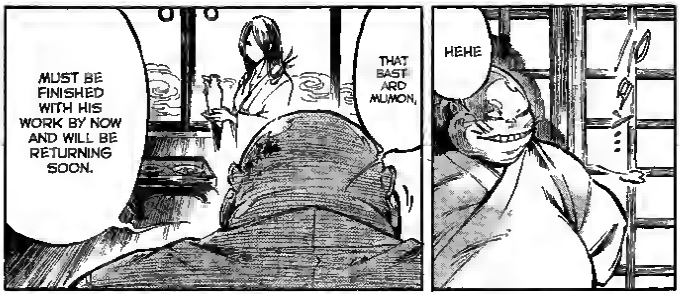
Chapter 10


Momoji Fortress
TOMORROW, LET'S START PREPARING FOR WAR EARLY IN THE MORNING.
CONVEY THIS TO EVERYONE AS WELL
UNDERSTOOD.


MUST BE FINISHED WITH HIS WORK BY NOW AND WILL BE RETURNING SOON.
THAT BASTARD MUMON,
HEHE

2

Well, even if I tell them about Daizen not participating on the day of war itself, it would motivate them...
It'd be better if I inform the genins that Daizen won't be participating.
It was pretty easy to manipulate Mumon by using his impatience.

Tamarujou Castle
WITHOUT HEKI DAIZEN, ISE'S ARMY IS LIKE...
A GROUP OF USELESS DUCKS CARRYING THE NAME OF "ODA" ON THEIR BACKS.
3
IS GOHONJO SAFE?
DISPATCH THE TROOPS RIGHT NOW!!!

ONCE THE ARMY HAS BEEN GATHERED,
ATTACK IGA.
DAMN IT,
LEAVE ME!!
MAKE THE PREPARATIONS FAST!!
HEY!
GET A HOLD OF YOUR-SELF!
ARE YOU HURT SOME-WHERE?!

HOW DARE YOU SHOW YOUR FACE IN MY CASTLE?!
HE SEEMS TO BE UNSCATHED...
DAIZEN, YOU—!!
BUT, WHY...
LISTEN UP DAIZEN!!
THAT BASTARD MUMON... HE SEEMS TO BE VERY VIOLENT BUT,
EVEN HE DIDN'T HAVE THE GUTS TO HURT NOBUKATSU.
I AM GOINGTO DESTROY IGA MYSELF!!!
I DON'T NEED ANY HELP FROM SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

What the...?
Just now... I saw a flash...?
...?
PLEASE REPEAT YOURSELF.
WHAT ...?!
PLEASE REPEAT WHAT-EVER YOU JUST SAID.
I SAID THAT WE ARE GOING
TO ATTACK IGA WITHOUT YOU!!!
???...!
6
GO-HONJO!
UHH.. THAT'S...
DAI-ZEN?!
WHY ARE YOU HERE...

DAI-
ZEN?!
Tamarujou
Castle
Northern Circle
Dungeon
TELL
ME.

THE REASON YOU CAME TO ISE.
...WHAT?

MY YOUNGER BROTHER WAS KILLED
HIS NAME WAS JIREBE MUMON KILLED HIM.
DID YOU COME TO PROPOSE THE ATTACK ON IGA?

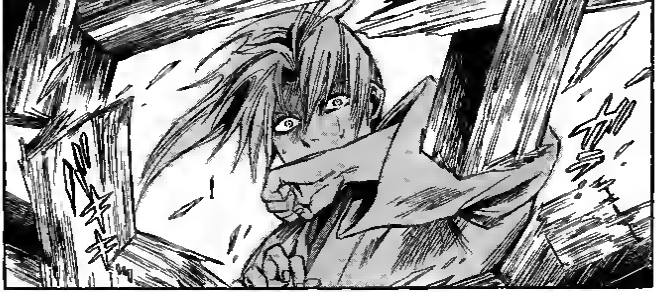
THE GENINS, AS UNDERLINGS OF THESE SAMURAI, KEEP LOSING THEIR LIVES ONE AFTER THE OTHER EVERY DAY.
EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE FORMED AN ALLIANCE NAMED "IGA INSURRECTION", THEY CONTINUE TO FIGHT EACH OTHER.
THAT COUNTRY HAS 66 SAMURAI WHO JUST KEEP FIGHTING BETWEEN THEMSELVES.
IT'S NOT THAT...
—THAT DAY WAS MY BROTHER'S TURN.
THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PEOPLE WHO TAKE DEATH LIGHTLY.
BUT WHEN I SAW THAT NOT ONLY THE FELLOW NINJAS BUT ALSO OUR FATHER DID NOT MOURN HIS DEATH...
IT WAS THEN WHEN I FINALLY REALIZED!
THAT THE PEOPLE OF IGA DO NOT HAVE A HEART!

!
THE PEOPLE OF IGA ARE NO LONGER HUMAN.
These words...
OVER TIME, TREACHERY HAS TAKEN OVER THE HEARTS OF THE IGA PEOPLE.
NOW...

Tsuge also lost all hope in the people of Iga.
He not only advised about fortification.
This man is certainly walking the same path as Tsuge!
But for the first time, someone [illegible] Kifabatake.

Tsuge Saburou Zaemon!!
He also used to say such words!
I have heard them before.
Similar words... From a person I know...

!
Is this just a coinci-dence...?



!?
...
?

FOLLOW ME! HEIBE!!

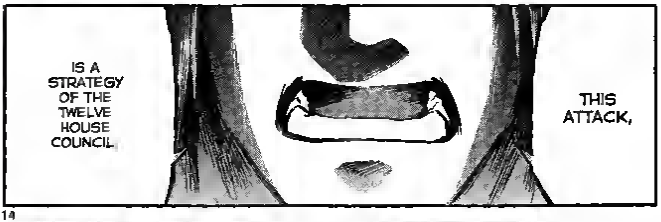
...FUU, KUKUKU

This is as far as Iga's military tactics go!!!

PARDON ME!

WHY ARE YOU HERE AGAIN?
I AM ALREADY PREPARED AFTER I CRUSH IGA, IT'S YOUR TURN.
GOHONJO, I HAVE COME TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.

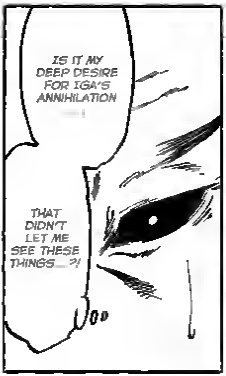
I, HEKI DAIZEN WILL COMMAND THE IGA INVASION.



WHAT'S... ALL THIS ABOUT?!
WHAT?
15
IN FACT, HE WAS BEING MANIPULATED BY THE TWELVE HOUSE COUNCIL..
WE INITIALLY THOUGHT THAT HEIBE BETRAYED IGA.
THAT'S WHY, SABUROU ZAEMON,
EVEN YOU WERE NOT ABLE TO SEE THE "POISON" INSIDE HIM.
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.
ISN'T IGA'S DEFEAT CLEAR AS DAYLIGHT?!
ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT THE REASON FOR BURNING MARUYAMA CASTLE WAS JUST TO PROVOKE NOBUKATSU?!
WHY WOULD THEY HAVE IGA ATTACKED BY AN ARMY OF MORE THAN 10,000 PEOPLE?!

IT'S ABOUT ME.

I REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS WAR.
IF I DON'T FIGHT, IGA WILL WIN.
BECAUSE OF THIS, IGA'S NINJA CONTINUED TO PROVOKE GOHONJO.

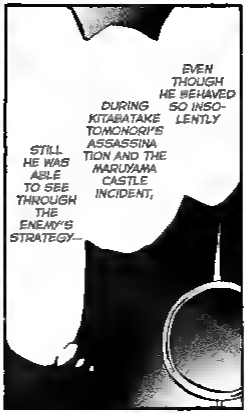

IS IT MY DEEP DESIRE FOR IGA'S ANNIHILATION
THAT DIDN'T LET ME SEE THESE THINGS...?!

THAT'S

MUMON TOO, WHO WAS JUST SNEAKING AROUND A WHILE AGO,
IS PROBABLY ACTING ACCORDING TO THE PLAN.

THERE WAS A BRIEF ARGUMENT AND THEN HE KILLED HIM WITH HIS JUTSU.
HE KILLED MY YOUNGER BROTHER
...THAT'S WHY,

IT'S BECAUSE OF ME.
THE ONLY TARGET
OF THE TWELVE HOUSE COUNCIL'S STRATEGY IS NO ONE ELSE BUT ME.


EVEN THOUGH HE BEHAVED SO INSOLENTLY
DURING KITABATAKE TOMONOJI'S ASSASSINATION AND THE MARUYAMA CASTLE INCIDENT,
STILL HE WAS ABLE TO SEE THROUGH THE ENEMY'S STRATEGY--

HMPH ...

WHAT MAKES A GREAT COMMANDER IS...
HIS STRATEGY MAKING SKILLS.

COMPOSED OF "DARK GENERALS"?!
EVEN IF IT'S SO ISN'T THE IGA'S TWELVE HOUSE COUNCIL...

LET'S FIGHT!
DON'T GIVE THEM A WEAKNESS TO STEP ON!
IT WAS MY MISTAKE TO UNDERESTIMATE THE MILITARY TACTICS OF NINJA!!!
19
SUCH IMPU-DENCE!!

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE,
TO DECIDE ANYTHING ON YOUR OWN?!
EVEN WITH-OUT YOU,
WE ARE GOING TO ATTACK IGA!!
GO-HON-JO...
THAT INCLUDES ALL OF YOU AS WELL!

IF YOU CAN'T SWEAR YOUR ALLEGIANCE FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART,
THEN YOU NEED NOT PARTICIPATE IN THIS WAR!!

EVEN IF NONE OF YOU PARTICI-PATE...
I WILL ATTACK IGA ONLY WITH MY OWN TROOPS!!!

HEY BRAT, DON'T MISUNDERSTAND!
THE FACT THAT EVERYONE PRESENT HERE FOLLOWS YOU BECAUSE OF THEIR
LOYALTY TO YOUR FATHER, IT'S VERY OBVIOUS!
I TALKED ABOUT GOING TO IGA FOR MY OWN BENEFIT!
I AM NOT DOING THIS FOR YOU!!!
21
NOW YOU'VE SAID IT!!
SO WHAT ABOUT IT?!
BASTARD... WHY DID YOU TELL HIM ABOUT EVERYBODY'S FEELINGS...?!
THIS TIME IT'S REALLY OVER, DAIZEN...

22

WHAT IS IT?
23
DOES ANYONE UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS?
I USED TO THINK THAT PEOPLE SHOULD LIKE ME FOR WHO I AM.
YOU BORN PRODI-GIES,
WARRIORS WHO ARE ENVIED BY OTHERS,
WHO DON'T LOSE TO ANYONE,
CAN YOU COMPREHEND MY FEELINGS?

DO YOU KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO HAVE THE STRONGEST PERSON ON EARTH AS YOUR FATHER?!
BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE HAVING A PARENT LIKE MY FATHER?!

He understands his weakness I see.
...HMMM, IS THAT SO...

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN USED BY YOUR FATHER—!!!
WHATEVER I DO, I CAN NEVER BECOME LIKE HIM!!

DAIZEN ....
SAKIYOU NOSUKE ....

Therefore, since his birth he has been overwhelmed by self condemnation.
Maybe it was necessary for him to act so oppressive towards us...

I AM REALLY SORRY. .
I AM SORRY...
IT WAS MY MISTAKE TO MAKE YOU KILL KITABATAKE TOMONORI.
25
DAIZEN?!
WITH THIS I HAVE SETTLED MY GRUDGE!!

GOHO-
NJO.
YOUR FATHER ORDERED YOU NOT TO ATTACK IGA BUT,
I REQUEST YOU DO SO!
26

ドサ

YOU ARE SUCH A...

DAIZEN
...

BEING THAT THE CASE....
THE RETAINERS OF THE KITABATAKE FAMILY WILL DO AS YOU COMMAND.
AND PARTICIPATE IN THE WAR AGAINST IGA!!!

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